Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Yes	401
No	27

Sunday, August 26, 2012

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BUSINESS

It was the $1 billion question Saturday: What does Apple Inc.'s victory in an epic patent dispute over its fiercest rival mean for the U.S. smartphone industry?

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FOCUS

Neil Armstrong was a soft-spoken engineer who became a global hero when as a steely-nerved pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with a small step onto the moon.

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LIFE & STYLE

A paparazzo charged with recklessly pursuing Justin Bieber for photos will challenge the constitutionality of the law targeting aggressive celebrity-hounding tactics, his attorney said Friday.

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LAWMAKERS TO START SIGNING IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION TODAY

FITIAL IMPEACHMENT for 'felony, corruption, neglect of duty'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Ordinary citizens plan to rally at Legislature today

Members of the House minority bloc led by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and other House members will start signing off today on a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for "multiple felonies, multiple acts of public corruption, and multiple instances of neglect of his sworn duties of office," even as some pro-impeachment community members plan to hold a peaceful rally at the Legislature from 9am to past 3pm today.

Fitial, along with local Republicans, is currently in Tampa, Florida for the Republican national convention, after visiting Hawaii and American Samoa.

The governor will also be on his way to Boise, Idaho for the annual Labor Day baseball tournament that has become a get-together for CNMI residents in the U.S., to also campaign for his Republican candidates in the CNMI's Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Moreover, an online petition asking

See FITIAL on Page 4

WITH CLOCK TICKING TO TRANSITION DATE

Inos asks Senate to get Social Security bill out of the way

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos is calling on the Senate once again to act favorably on a bill expressing the CNMI's desire to transfer active government employees to the Social Security program with only a few weeks to go before the desired transition of Oct. 1 or the first payroll in October.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately said her committee is poised to recommend action not only on House Bill 17-312 or the Social Security bill, but also on HB 17-315 or the pension reform bill and the HB 17-313 or the $114 million fiscal year 2013 budget bill during the next session.

The next Senate session is set for Wednesday at 10am.

Inos said he understands the Senate's plan.

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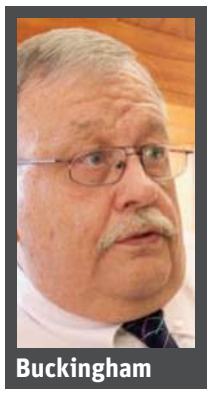
ON ASSISTING EX-AG IN 'FLEEING' CNMI

CPA: Ports police didn't violate law

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Buckingham

An internal investigation conducted by the Commonwealth Ports Authority concluded that ports police did not violate any law or abused power when they served as escorts at the airport to former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham and his wife when the couple left the CNMI earlier this month.

CPA executive director Edward

See CPA on Page 4

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

Young students check out school supplies in one of the aisles of National Office Supply along Beach Road on Saturday afternoon as they tag along with their parents for a back-to-school shopping, ahead of the Sept. 4 opening of public school classes. Many families have received their child tax credit checks since last week, boosting sales of school supplies and other consumer items the past days. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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OAG says govt's $282M debts to Fund not an issue. PAGE 2
'Ex-police captain does not pose a danger to community.' PAGE 3

Local

OAG says govt's $282M debt to Fund not an issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government's debt to the NMI Retirement Fund is not an issue but on how to best allocate the government's limited funds to pay retiree benefits, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel said the two unnamed retirees argue that the Fund has failed to make any progress in collecting on the Superior Court's $282 million judgment.

"The issues presented in collecting the state court judgment are complex in nature due to the proportion of the debt to the CNMI government's entire annual budget," said Patel as counsel for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the CNMI government, and the Department of Finance.

Fitial, the CNMI government, Finance, the Fund, and several other persons and several other people are all named as defendants in the unnamed retirees' lawsuit. The defendants filed on Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI their opposition to the two unnamed retirees' emergency motion to lift stay of their lawsuit.

In defendants' opposition, Patel said the CNMI government owes upwards of $280 million to the Fund, while its annual budget is only a little over $100 million.

"Even if the CNMI is allocated all of its resources to paying the state court judgment, the judgment would not have been completely paid as of today," she said.

The government lawyer said requiring allocation of the entire budget to pay select retirees would be nonsensical because the CNMI would lose funding for other vital programs, such as the Commonwealth Hospital and the Public School System.

Patel said the CNMI government fully acknowledges "the debts and obligations of the Retirement Fund are ultimately the debts and obligations of the Commonweal of the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to NMI Constitution Article III, section 20(a)."

However, Patel said, the issue is how to best allocate the government's limited resources to properly pay retiree benefits, while maintaining a functioning government and civilized society.

The lawyer said Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo has placed a deadline on the solution [on how to pay the Fund], against the CNMI government's protest, and will have a status conference on Sept. 7, 2012.

Patel said although the CNMI government does not fully agree with the court's rulings, the Superior Court can provide the two unnamed retirees with an adequate remedy and has exercised its power to do so.

On the executive order issue, Patel said the two unnamed retirees incorrect argue that Executive Order 2012-06 is an attempt by the CNMI government to further diminish their pension and constitutional rights.

"Not only is the Executive Order a valid exercise of the Governor's power to reorganize executive departments, but also a measure to protect retirees benefits," she pointed out.

Patel said the EO specifically states, "It is the responsibility of the government of the CNMI to take steps to increase the Retirement Fund's longevity, uphold its promises to its senior citizens."

In August 2009, the two unnamed retirees, through counsel Bruce Jorgensen, filed the lawsuit in federal court against Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

The District Court then issued a stay so the two unnamed retirees could intervene in the Superior Court action and avail themselves of post-judgment remedies or compel the Fund to pursue post judgment remedies.

See OAG on Next Page

Man arrested for allegedly breaking into house storage room

Police arrested last week one of two persons who allegedly broke into a storage room of a house in San Antonio and stole an amplifier, chrome steering wheel and a bag.

Sheldon U. Remoket, 25, was taken to Superior Court on Thursday for bail hearing on charges of burglary and theft.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $10,000 cash bail for Remoket's temporary release.

It was not clear yet as of yesterday whether Remoket's alleged companion was arrested.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that, on Aug. 9 at 11:29am two police officers responded to the residence of Melvin Basa in San Antonio where a burglary reportedly occurred.

Norita said a witness told the officers that Remoket and a woman had just left on board a car after getting some items from the house's storage room.

After a few minutes, the officers spotted Remoket's vehicle near the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

The officers approached Remoket and asked if he came from Basa's residence.

Remoket admitted that he came from Basa's residence and took some items. Remoket and his companion allowed the officers to search their vehicle.

The officers seized from the car the items belonging to Basa.

Remoket's companion told police that they took the items from Basa's residence because Basa owed them $100.

Basa's girlfriend allegedly told Remoket's companion to get anything from the storage room worth $100.

Norita said that, on Aug. 13, he met with Basa's girlfriend, who denied giving consent to Remoket's companion to take items from the storage room.

In August 2008, Remoket and two other men were arrested for allegedly admitted to 13 cases of burglary and theft cases on Capital Hill, As Gonno, Papago, and Kagman.

In November 2006, Remoket was also arrested after he allegedly beat up his co-suspect in a theft case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

The House of Representatives
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Date: August 27, 2012
Contact: Representative Joseph M. Palacios
Telephone: (670) 664-8830
Facsimile: (670) 664-8831

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Committee on Judicial and Government Operations would like to invite the general public to a Public Hearing on August 29, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The purpose of this Public Hearing will be to discuss the following:

• **House Local Bill 17-078** "To rename the Susupe Beach Park located near the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe Saipan (Lot No. 050H01) to "Vicente "Pacho" Masga Sablan Beach Park"; and for other purposes.

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written or verbal comments on or before the date of the public hearing. Please contact the Office of Representative Joseph M. Palacios if you have any questions regarding this public hearing and fax comments to (670) 664-8831 or email staff.rep.palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp.

Your cooperation and attendance is greatly appreciated.

/s/ Rep. Joseph M. Palacios
Chairman

‘Ex-police captain does not pose a danger to community’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former police captain Delbert Reyes Sablan is a peaceful family man who does not pose a danger to any specific person or to the community, according to defense lawyer Bruce Berline.

Berline has asserted that the alleged crime that brings Sablan into the U.S. District Court for the NMI is not a violent crime.

“The supporting charging documents contain no crimes of violence or allegations of any threat of, or actual physical injury,” said Berline in a memorandum in support of Sablan’s detention hearing filed in District Court on Friday.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom Friday afternoon, the detention hearing for Sablan had yet to start.

On Friday afternoon, a federal grand jury indicted Sablan and eight other persons, including active and former law enforcers, for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or “ice” and possession of a firearm by a felon charges.

The nine defendants were arrested by combined federal and local law enforcers on Saipan last Wednesday and were taken to court that same day after the U.S. government filed a complaint against them.

The indictment charged Delbert Sablan with three counts of felon in possession of a firearm.

According to the indictment, Delbert Sablan was found in possession of one Winchester .30 caliber rifle on March 2, 2011.

Delbert Sablan was also allegedly found in possession of one Smith & Wesson 9millimeter handgun and 12 rounds of 9 millimeter ammunition on Aug. 22, 2012.

In October 2011, a federal grand jury convicted Delbert Sablan of one count of theft concerning federal money. He was subsequently sentenced in February 2002 to 27 months in jail.

The former police captain used to be chief of the Department of Public Safety’s Criminal Investigation Bureau.

In Sablan’s memorandum filed on Friday, Berline asserted that the U.S. government is not entitled to a detention hearing unless at least one of the six criteria exists.

Berline said felon in possession of a firearm is not a crime of violence for purposes of the Bail Reform Act.

Moreover, the lawyer said, Sablan is not charged with a drug offense nor with an offense that carries a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or death.

Berline said no basis exists to hold a detention hearing and that Sablan must be released on bail.

Berline said the charges allegedly arose out of an informant cooperating with the U.S. government.

“There is no evidence that indicates that defendant Sablan was involved in the use of any physical force or violence this matter nor were the alleged firearms used or brandished or even loaded. Moreover, no one sustained any type of physical injury,” he said.

Sablan, Berline said, did not resist arrest in any way and in fact cooperated with the police.

The defense lawyer also noted that the circumstances of this case, and the degree of the defendant’s alleged involvement in this matter, gives rise to a strong possibility that this case may be resolved pre-trial.

Berline added that a preliminary review of the sentencing guidelines applicable in this case indicates that the former police captain is facing a relatively low sentencing range, probably somewhere around two years in prison.

OAG

From Page 2

The two unnamed retirees recently filed their emergency motion to lift stay on the basis that the Fund allegedly has not and will not collect the Superior Court judgment.

The unnamed retirees argued that the federal court is the only one that can adequately protect their rights.

Blurry Vision?
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CHC asks Legislature: What services should we keep?

Board members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. unanimously voted for the creation of a resolution seeking guidance from the Legislature on what services it wants retained at the public hospital.

This, after the board presented Thursday the actual figures the organization has for its personnel and operations for the Commonwealth Health Center and Tinian and Rota health clinics.

Budget and fiscal officials of the healthcare corporation revealed that the $18-million revenue projection of the hospital this fiscal year is impossible to achieve following the revelation that it may only generate $8 million until the end of fiscal year next month.

It was disclosed that in order to generate $18 million, the health corporation has to come up with monthly collection of $4.5 million—way beyond the actual monthly revenue of only about $800,000.

Factor in the $5-million seed money the Legislature appropriated, CEO Juan N. Babauta said the healthcare corporation is operating at a very critical level with only $13 million for the whole year, with three clinics, over 400 personnel, and numerous vendors awaiting payments.

The resolution, to be drafted by legal counsel Allen Hazlip, will ask the Legislature on what specific services and clinics they want prioritized based on the appropriation they want to allocate to CHC.

Babauta revealed that if it will base its operations on the actual operating budget of only $13 million this fiscal year, the healthcare corporation has to reduce its personnel by half, which will lead to the hospital's closure due to unmet federal requirements of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Board member Anthony Raho described as "substandard" the kind of services CHC may give to people if it will continue the current scope of operation with only $13 million money on hand.

The idea of outsourcing the hospital's outpatient clinics and other non-critical units was also lengthily discussed during the board meeting, along with the consolidation of small sections to reduce expenditure costs. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Taimanao tries to help address $27M in unpaid judgments against govt

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) pre-filed a bill that would allow the payment of claims and judgments against the government without specific appropriations, to help address more than $27 million in unpaid judgments against the government.

The government has been unable to settle claims in the early stages of litigation, claiming that it can only pay money judgments with funds that the Legislature appropriated for the payment.

"Although the governor has the authority to waive the requirement of an appropriation by the Legislature, he has been reluctant to exercise the authority. As a result, claims which could have been settled for tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars have resulted in judgments against the government for millions of dollars," Taimanao said in her bill.

Taimanao will be introducing Senate Bill 17-106 during Wednesday's session, wherein senators are also expected to vote on an amended $114 million budget bill for fiscal year 2013 and two NMI Retirement Fund/Social Security bills that the Fitial administration has been waiting for.

Under the law, any final judgment of a court shall be paid only pursuant to an item of appropriations for settlement and awards.

Taimanao said the government has taken little action to pay outstanding judgments and does not submit budget requests for appropriations to pay judgments.

She said the Legislature recently passed House Bill 17-165, House Substitute 1 which would have allowed the government to negotiate settlements for satisfaction of claims by means other than payment of a monetary amount.

"The governor vetoed the bill because he believed that the bill would interfere with the Legislature's authority to appropriate funds for money judgments. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to provide the government with the needed flexibility to satisfy claims against the government and pay judgments, and to allow judgments to be enforced, these restrictions should be eliminated," Taimanao said.

SB 17-106 seeks to amend 7 CMC 2205(a) to delete the part stating that "Money judgments rendered against the Commonwealth shall only be paid from funds specifically appropriated for the purpose by the legislature."

It also amends 1 CMC 7207, to read: "No court may require the disbursement of funds from the Commonwealth Treasury or order the reprogramming of funds in order to pay settlements and judgments until one year after entry of final judgment."

Two days before leaving Saipan, then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham wrote a letter to the Legislature informing them that the government has more than $27 million in unpaid judgments needing appropriations. These are owed to 15 claimants or groups of claimants.

The current budget bill for FY 2013 has "zero" for payments of settlements and awards. If the Legislature appropriates some $27 million to address all the unpaid judgments and claims, then that would be a big chunk or 24 percent of the government's $114 million budget from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013.

The biggest amount owed is $11.43 million, which the CNMI government needs to pay to the heirs of Manaabao in the CNMI v. Lot 353 New-G et al., Superior Court Civil No. 97-0266. The date of judgment was June 10, 2011.

Also on the list is over $5.9 million that the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources needs to pay Marine Revitalization Corp. and businessman Anthony Pellegrino. The date of judgment was May 10, 2005.

The other government agencies responsible for these payments were the Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Health Center now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Department of Public Works. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

INOS

From Page 1

"But the most important thing is to try to get the Social Security bill out of the way because that still has to go through two more steps. That is, once we sign it into law, we need to formally communicate to the U.S. Social Security Administration of our intention and from that point on, the administrative thing will kick in," Inos said in an interview.

The Fitial administration wants to transition government employees to the Social Security program and place the NMI Retirement Fund under the Department of Finance mostly to disburse pensions for current retirees, as part of the plan to address mounting concerns about the troubled public pension agency. Fitial placed the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

Inos met with some lawmakers last week on the three bills that the Senate is expected to act on during its next session.

The acting governor said he is aware of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's consideration of merging the Departments of Commerce and Labor to streamline government operations. But he said it may make more sense to merge Labor with the Workforce Investment Agency rather than with Commerce.

Inos, at the same time, said government finances are expected to be better in FY 2013, considering that the projected revenue available for appropriation is $114 million, compared to $102 million in FY 2012.

But there are still challenges, he added, including meeting the cash requirements of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"We just hope that with a little but of time and little bit of effort, hopefully we would be able to maybe address many of these things in the not so distant future," he added.

CPA

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero said based on the probe, no ports police personnel violated the law during the early morning of Aug. 4 when they assisted local police in escorting the Buckinghams at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport amid growing concerns about abuse of power, misuse of government resources, and obstruction of justice.

"I want to say, we respect the subpoena power of the Legislature. But in my review of what happened that night, there's nothing that indicated our ports police have done anything wrong. They did not do anything that violated the law!" he said.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the ports police just extended assistance to Department of Public Safety personnel when they escorted the Buckinghams at the airport and did not try to stop the process of serving the summons to the former AG.

"It is not against the law to assist the local police department in escorting Mr. Buckingham and I don't believe that any of my officers tried to stop the process [of serving the penal summon]," added Deleon Guerrero.

The day before he left the CNMI, the Office Public Auditor filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with his alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and the former AG's approval of a $400,000 sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act management contract in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of the latter stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

The CPA chief said a formal response to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations was already issued by the agency and welcomed any separate probe that the committee may initiate on the same issue.

The Senate committee, in its letter to CPA and the Department of Public Safety, asked both agencies to "justify" the need for armed police personnel.

The panel also wanted to know if heads of both departments—acting police chief Aniceto Ogumoro and Deleon Guerrero—had prior knowledge of the use of their uniformed men and service vehicles to escort the Buckinghams and carry their luggage.

He, however, did not mention if he had prior knowledge about this issue.

Deleon Guerrero also pointed out that, contrary to claims that the investigation request was not taken seriously by the agency, CPA respects the subpoena power of the Legislature and had responded to its request.

FITIAL

From Page 1

the Legislature to impeach Fitial was close to having 500 signatures as of last night.

Media online polls on the issue of impeachment have also been drawing record responses.

Deleon Guerrero said the minority bloc will have a 3pm meeting today, to once again allow members to review the final draft before deciding on prefiling it either before the close of business today or Tuesday.

Draft articles of impeachment

The articles of impeachment include those in connection with Fitial's plan or conspiring with others in January 2010 to have a federal inmate released temporarily from prison to give him a massage during wee hours of the night and morning.

His involvement in the use of armed police and ports police officers to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges prior to his departure from the CNMI, as well as misuse of government resources to escort the former AG, are also among those in the resolution.

Fitial's approval of a sole-source $392,406 ARRA management contract to former Commerce secretary Mike Ada within days of his resignation from government is also in the resolution.

Also in the resolution is Fitial's failure to remove his former AG despite his involvement in a political gathering and use of public resources for political campaigns.

The impeachment resolution, whose final draft is expected to be released today or tomorrow, would also include Fitial's failure to nominate from September 2011 to March 2012 individuals to serve on the Public Utilities Commission leading to emergency declarations and subjecting ratepayers to high utility rates.

It would also include Fitial's failure to nominate a Supreme Court chief justice since October 2011, and his failure to remit full employee and employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund since 2006, resulting in a crisis with the public pension agency.

The Fund was the first public pension agency on American soil to file for bankruptcy, although the court later dismissed the filing.

The CNMI is also among U.S. states and territories with critical agencies—hospital, pension, and utilities—under a "state of emergency" simultaneously.

Fitial and Buckingham's secretive signing of a $190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement may also be included in the resolution, depending on what the House minority bloc decides today or tomorrow.

Rally, petition

Meanwhile, some community members plan to be at the Legislature on Capital Hill from morning to afternoon today to personally call on lawmakers to impeach Fitial.

Others said they will start at 9am, while some may come later, around the time the House minority members meet at 3pm.

An online petition launched by Ed Propst continues to draw supporters, with close to 500 signatures as of last night.

The online petition is available at http://www.change.org/petitions/the-cnmi-legislature-impeach-cnmi-governor-benigno-fitial.

Some of the latest comments on the online petition include, "Ben Fitial has no regard for the people in the CNMI and no regard for following the laws of the CNMI. He has been secretive in his dealings and by his actions, is further plunging the CNMI economy into a disastrous state," and "Stop the corruption!"

Another said, "It was obvious that the AG leaving the islands with such escorts came from the instructions from the Governor. Come on now. His driver and the commissioner was there. We can clearly see that the Governor broke his oath to the people of the CNMI and does not deserve to sit in office anymore. I think that outside law enforcement officers should look into the government and stop all the corruption within the government."

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, without taking a position on the impeachment issue, earlier advised lawmakers to not act on the impeachment in haste, to do their homework, and proceed with caution.

Members of the minority bloc said they have been proceeding with caution, to meet the constitutional grounds for impeachment.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), for his part, said lawmakers should not be "the judge, the prosecutor and juror" all at once, and asked that the governor—just like any person—to be given a chance to explain himself.

For example, he said, before people accuse the governor of wrongdoings in connection with the 25-year power purchase agreement, they should at least hear from him when he comes back about his reason for signing the agreement and the manner by which he approved of such deal.

The NMI Constitution says the Legislature may impeach the governor for "treason, commission of a felony, corruption, or neglect of duty."

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to impeach the governor. Right now, the governor's allies form the majority in the House.

The nine-member Senate needs at least six affirmative votes to convict.

Allegiance Capital's shipyard project proposal not on CPA's table

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that there's no standing proposal for a shipyard project on Saipan that the board of directors is currently reviewing or had approved.

This was what the executive director answered when asked about the status of the proposal of Allegiance Capital Corp. which plans to build the Saipan Dry Dock and Repair Facilities project in partnership with Saipan Shipyard LLC.

It was in 2009 when Allegiance Capital approached CPA to build this project, which then forecast to generate over $100 million in annual economic benefit to the Commonwealth.

The firm wants to construct a graving drydock ship repair facility at north and south seaplane ramps extending south to Echo pier. However, five major areas may be affected in the proposed project including the lower seaplane ramps, echo dock, former CUC and DPW properties, DPW repair shop property, and the CUC power plant 1 property.

But Deleon Guerrero admitted he is not aware of any Allegiance Capital proposal that is being considered, reviewed, or has been approved by the board.

The proposed shipyard project is now being linked to the $190-million, 25-year power deal that was signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham early this month.

"I wasn't there at the time… but I am not aware of any shipyard project [from Allegiance Capital] for Saipan that is on the board's table now for review or approval," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he came onboard CPA in December 2009. Allegiance Capital made its formal presentation to the CPA board in April 2009.

Saipan Tribune learned that the shipyard project will contain two graving docks up to 900 feet in length, multiple repair, fabrication, and fuel depot and administrative facilities.

The company's representative, Kenneth Mahmood, made the formal presentation to the board in 2009 and is seeking a 25-year lease of the facility.

During that presentation, Mahmood said the company is willing to shoulder the cost of relocating power plant 1 if there's a need to. If this project pushes through, this will serve as CPA's biggest investment at its seaport.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that the only shipyard project he is aware of was the one for Guam Shipyard and Worldwide Salvage Saipan LLC, both which were cancelled due to non-satisfaction of local and federal requirements including the unsettled issue of submerged lands.

"That's the only [shipyard project proposals]…but were cancelled because they're not ready with the permits," he explained Friday.

It was in late part of 2009 when Worldwide Salvage Saipan LLC proposed to establish a $16-million ship disposal program with no cost to the government. It asked to lease a portion of the ports facility which was approved by the board provided the company meets certain conditions.

Deleon Guerrero said Worldwide Resources cancelled the project because federal law does not allow the shipment of military ships for dismantling to U.S. territories.

He revealed that in the case of Guam Shipyard, CPA was informed that it may pursue the proposed project once requirements are satisfied.

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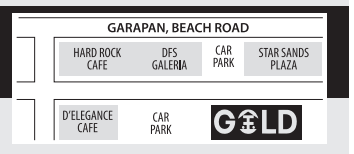

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES

RFP 12-01

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from interested firms to provide janitorial services for MPLT office located on 1222 Capital Hill Road, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide general janitorial services for the MPLT office. Interested parties can pick up the scope of work at the MPLT office or can be access at the website at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Please submit letter of interest to include monthly rate to the attention of **Barbara Reyes**, Office Manager, Marianas Public Land Trust P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Thursday, August 30, 2012.

Interested firms are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.

This public notice is also available on our website at www.mplt.gov.mp. Should you have any question or need additional information, please contact our office at 3224401/4402, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm.

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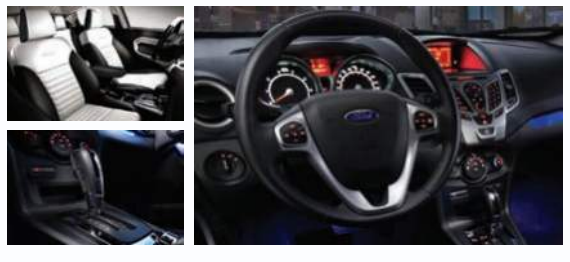

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Release of child tax credit checks boosts back-to-school shopping

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Antonio Austria, 52, said he felt relieved when he checked his post office box and found a child tax credit check for $587, just in time for a back-to-school shopping ahead of the opening of public school classes on Sept. 4.

"The check is dated Aug. 22 but I checked the post office only today. I am glad I got it, I can now buy school stuff for my children," Austria told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the National Office Supply along Beach Road on Saturday afternoon.

Austria was among the shoppers crowding stores during the weekend, ahead of the Public School System's Sept. 4 opening of classes for more than 10,000 students at 19 elementary, junior, and high school campuses.

Portions of a total of $3.2 million child tax credit checks have already been released as acting governor Eloy S. Inos announced last week.

More checks are expected to be released in the days ahead.

Austria, an electrician at D&A Construction, said this was his first time to receive a child tax credit check, which he said would go toward buying school supplies for his two sons attending San Antonio Elementary School.

"This would be a big help. I wouldn't be able to buy all of the supplies needed if it were not for this child tax credit check," he added.

Austria showed a list of 20 items for elementary school students he was supposed to buy for each of his sons: one container of baby wipes, one backpack, one calculator, one box of 64 crayons, two erasers, four glue sticks, three different colored highlighters, one pack of index cards, one pack of water-based markers, one pencil box, two pencil sharpeners, 10 pencils, six pocket folders, one pack of post-it notes, two boxes of puffs tissues, one ruler, one pair of scissors, one roll of scotch tape, one three-ring binder, and one pack of wide-ruled notebook paper.

Patricia Taule, 38, said she got her $1,000 child tax credit check on Friday, sending her, her daughters, and niece to a weekend shopping for school supplies.

"I have been waiting for it. I was already worried because it might not come out on time but it did. I am thankful," said Taule.

Two of her children will be attending Tanapag Elementary School and one other will be a freshman at Kagman High School.

"If I didn't get the check, it would be hard for us because my husband does not have a job right now," said the Tanapag resident.

The acting governor said on Tuesday last week that parents could expect to receive their child tax credit checks on or before Aug. 28 following the Department of Finance's announcement that it received $3.2 million in child tax credits.

"These additional funds for families will be helpful so that school children may be well equipped with school supplies, clothing, shoes, and other needed items as they start a new academic year," Inos said in an earlier statement.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

Rundown of back-to-school sales on island

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the Public School System braces for the start of another school year, retail stores also get caught up in one of the busiest times of the year when consumers go on a buying frenzy for new clothes, notebooks, bags, and other school supplies.

But back-to-school shopping need not be out of control or even financially unreasonable as several shops on island understand the need for customers to get the most of out of their hard-earned money by offering attractive discounts and promotions that would help take the pressure off the opening of classes.

Saipan Tribune gives you a list of some of these local stores where back-to-school shopping parallels getting the best deals for school children and their families.

Bali Fashions

This store along Middle Road is offering a huge back-to-school clearance sale for students' clothing needs. Prices for tops and skinny jeans for girls as well as T-shirts and jackets for boys are marked down to let Bali Fashions shoppers get the best quality at the lowest price. But the public is encouraged to visit the store soon as stocks are limited. Accessories and other items are also sold at the store. Major credit cards and government tax checks are accepted. For more information, call 233-1190.

Lollipops and Girl Talk

If your youngsters want to be hip and stylish at school, then come visit Lollipops and Girl Talk along Beach Road in Garapan. For these shops, any student can be fashionable without hurting the parents' budgets as their clothing departments offer 20-percent discount, with selected items enjoying a 50-percent price cut. Lollipops is located next to McDonald's in Garapan and is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 9pm and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. For information, call 234-8040. Meanwhile, Girl Talk is located next to JP Center and is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm and Sunday from 11am to 5pm. Call 233-8050 for more information.

Modern Office Supply

For lowest prices that are guaranteed, visit Modern Office Supply which has two locations to serve you: San Jose and Garapan. This store boasts of more quality items that give more savings to its patrons. From backpacks and binders to calculators and flash drives, Modern Office Supply has a complete line of your school and office needs. Enjoy up to 50-percent markdown on store items. But hurry because their back-to-school sale ends on Sept. 14. They're open 7 days a week. For more information, call 234-6832 (San Jose) or 233-8900 or 8902 (Garapan).

National Office Supply

Looking for super savings and super deals? Go to National Office Supply, which prides itself as "Your Back-to-School Headquarters." Conveniently located along Beach Road, National Office Supply widens your back-to-school prospects with its array of offerings for students of all ages. Its "Super Sale" gives shoppers 30-percent reduction on all regular-priced items, with the exception of items that are already on sale. For more information, call 234-3197 to 99.

Suntinday

As part of its back-to-school promo, Suntinday store is giving 10- to 20-percent discount on selected items that school-children may need—from tops and jeans to notebooks and writing instruments. It also has special bundle promotions for even better deals. Formerly Fashion Ave., Suntinday is located in Chalan Kanoa and is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 9pm and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Major credit cards accepted. Call 234-3218 for more information.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to submit its Abbreviated State Plan for Fiscal Year 2013. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, and the Program Integrity Assessment in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress, accomplishments, and problems that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mr. George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor and Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan or Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1341.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Progråman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha Abbreviated State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2013. Komu ma'aomenta hålum i katotsi (14) gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u ma'otdin para i kinimpli ni, yan I Pgram Integrity Assessment anai siña para u marisibi I salåppi' , ya manmadimånda han lokkui' para u maripot todu I adilåntu, kinemplidu yan prublema siha ni ma'ekspirensia gi halum I manma'pus na såkkan I prugråma. I LIHEAP na progråma heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku heneråt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang si Siñot George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, yan Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan, Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1341.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe féérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2013. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkulééw ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, me kkemalul programma, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Sóumwár George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, me Ilimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me/ngare Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2569 ngare 664-2568 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1341.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/S/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
Secretary, DCCA

Date: 08/01/2012

VENUE	SCHEDULED DATES	TIME
TINIAN-TINIAN GYMNASIUM	AUGUST 08, 2012	6:00 PM
ROTA-ROTA ROUNDHOUSE	AUGUST 24, 2012	6:00 PM
SAIPAN-MULTI PURPOSE CENTER	AUGUST 27, 2012	6:00 PM

TO PROMOTE MARIANAS REGION

MVA mulls joint board meeting with GVB

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors convenes for a meeting last Wednesday.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is considering having a joint board meeting with the Guam Visitors Bureau to discuss "mutual opportunities" to promote the Marianas region.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said that the joint meeting is scheduled on Oc. 5, a Friday, to be held in Guam.

"We want them (GVB) to have a full quorum and get MVA to also have a full quorum so we can discuss mutual opportunities and maybe make some decisions on items we need to move forward on together," Tenorio told the board during a meeting last Aug. 22.

MVA, the Commonwealth's lead agency for its No. 1 industry, is governed by a nine-member board of directors, so Tenorio said that MVA would need to send a minimum of five board members to the joint meeting.

He presented the board a draft for the joint meeting's agenda, and noted that their Guam counterparts have asked the CNMI delegation to stay at least one night so that GVB can host a reception for them.

Additionally, Tenorio said, the joint meeting was scheduled to coincide with several other events in Guam at that time, including the Guam Micronesia Island Fair which is GVB's annual signature cultural event.

"They want to share the products that GVB puts together," he explained.

In an interview, Tenorio said the joint meeting between the tourism agencies for CNMI and Guam had been done "very loosely" in the past since both territories were competing with one another for their own share in the tourist market.

"Now we're looking at where we can actually share resources to promote the Marianas area just to increase visitor arrival and economic activity, and give added value to people looking at multiple destinations," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Such is the case for the Russian market, according to Tenorio, adding that the joint promotion for both islands among Russian tourists is projected to continue as they intend to stay longer during their visits compared to other markets like Japan and Korea.

While the board noted the rewards of the joint promotion, it also raised some concerns on the endeavor, citing the challenges of promoting the two islands at the same time and the declining market share of tourists in the Micronesia.

"We agree that there are certain places where we are friendly competitors and then there's other source countries that we can tie up together to see if we can maximize opportunities," Tenorio told the board.

Tenorio said during the interview that the joint meeting would be a chance to explore other opportunities such as looking at joint promotion for different segments within a source country "that we can target for multiple island visits."

"For example, there might be a segment within the Japan market that is looking for multiple island destinations and they are looking at longer stays," he explained.

Board director Jerry Tan said that although it remains to be known how much would come out of the meeting, he remarked that it's good to have a "friend" at GVB in the person of general manager Joann G. Camacho who is "very, very interested" to work with and have an open dialogue with MVA.

Updates on Health Care Reform Act in SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management's NMI Chapter announced that its general membership lunch meeting on Aug. 30 will tackle updates on the Health Care Reform Act. This meeting will have health care providers in the region address how these updates affect the CNMI. The panel of speakers include:

- Frank Campillo, Calvo's SelectCare Plan administrator
- Jerry Crisostomo, NetCare Insurance Plan administrator
- Francis Santos, StayWell Insurance Plan administrator
- Timothy Ogata, TakeCare Insurance Plan administrator

HR professionals and businesses alike are encouraged to attend this meeting to find out how the recent Supreme Court ruling on the individual mandate under the Health Care Reform Act affects the CNMI. This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers to learn about:

- Update to the current timeline for the Health Care Reform Act
- Insurance market reform provisions, including essential benefits
- Update to how this affects Medicaid
- Health insurance exchanges
- Individual and Employer mandates; and
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and how it affects medical loss ratios

The SHRM Augist meeting will be held this coming Thursday, Aug. 30, 11:30am to 2pm at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret .

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Malou Jardinero at 234-0560 ext. 155 or e-mail malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 250,000 individual members, the Society's mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive resources available. As an influential voice, the society's mission is also to advance the human resource profession to ensure that HR is recognized as an essential partner in developing and executing organizational strategy. The NMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

KagES grade 5 and 6 students orientation today

Kagman Elementary School will have a special orientation for 5th and 6th grade students today, Aug. 27, from 3pm to 4pm at the school's cafeteria.

The agenda will address double session class schedules and attendance is required. For more information, call 237-3965 or 237-3074. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Henry S. Ada aka Harry Aguas. You have spent 33 years of rain or shine fishing in the sea. With your charms you caught a walking and talking fish on land…or two.. kidding, but still there's a lot more gigantic ones in the ocean with your name on it waiting in line for you to hook'em up. Lots of love from. The Aguas & Chaketa familias.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 16th birthday to Mathew Tenorio! May you have a blessed and fun day!

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FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Ada earns doctorate in Educational Leadership

Alfred Borja Ada defended his research dissertation study entitled, "Teacher Perceptions Regarding Parental Involvement in the Saipan Public High Schools" at the Guam Community College campus last Aug. 10

After his committee members deliberated, he was presented to the community as an accomplished researcher named, Dr. Alfred B. Ada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman High School principal Alfred B. Ada was bestowed a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership by Argosy University-Hawaii at the Guam Marriot Hotel last Aug. 11.

"That pivotal moment was the moment I've been waiting for, for the last six years of my life, Ada said. "This is attributed to God almighty, to my wife, children, my brothers and sisters, and my close family and friends."

Last Aug. 11, Ada was hooded to the highest honor in academia, from Argosy University-Hawaii, a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. The ceremony took place at the Guam Marriot Hotel and he was ecstatic about the whole experience.

During the ceremony, he opened his short speech that he shares his achievement with his family and friends. His short speech described his doctoral journey as a metaphor of a song by Candido Taman: growing up on a farm learning to swim and dive and the fear of knowing the sharks were always near.

Ada articulated how he grew up in the small village of Chalan Kanoa, District 1, and how the beach, swimming, and diving played a key role as his favorite pastimes. He also said that during his low times sharks came to symbolize his "fear of failure" and that was always part of his mental anguish during his doctoral journey.

"Most successful people embark on humble beginnings and patience and perseverance will lead to success," said Ada.

Obtaining this doctoral degree was a personal fulfillment and to know that he has contributed research information about Saipan public high schools is an accomplishment.

"*Si Yu'us Ma'ase* to all who have contributed one way or another toward making this dream a reality. I share this achievement with all of you. God bless," he said.

Ada is currently employed at the CNMI Public School System serving as the principal of Kagman High School for the last seven years.

Prior to KHS, Ada was an elementary school principal for six years at William S. Reyes Elementary School. He obtained his Masters Degree with the University of Guam in Educational Administration and Supervision at the time he was assigned to WSR.

He began his career as an elementary school teacher at San Vicente Elementary school and an adjunct teacher at the Northern Marianas College.

In 1993, he graduated at Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in Communications. He graduated with the Mt. Carmel Class of 1986 and he recalls that high school life has not changed in some ways.

"The turbulent time in our adolescent lives shape our future aspirations," he said. "Whatever life you plan and design, you must try and accomplish to finish and finish strong!" ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-031

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012
Closing Date: Until Filled

Executive Director

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth that is about a three (3) hour flight south of Tokyo and about a half hour flight north of the U.S. territory of Guam. Under the direct supervision of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) OR his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are to: Supervise staff (including prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary decisions). Assumes full management responsibility of all CUC's divisions and services. Monitors and evaluates efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and processes; assesses and monitors service delivery levels; identifies opportunities, weaknesses and strengths of divisions; directs the implementation of changes. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through the upper management team by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems. Manages the development and implementation of goals, objectives, missions, policies, priorities and allocations of resources. Participates on a variety of board and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings. Performs short and long-range strategic planning. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

Minimum Requirements:

Required Training and Experience:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance, or public administration, OR, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years in a similar wastewater, drinking water, and/or power utility (preferably combined utility), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resource needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training and implementation needs.
- Proven management and communication skills; demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; experience with managing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; and experience with drinking water and wastewater systems; user fee system development; bond funding; staff training and development; and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.

Desired Knowledge and Skill:

- Leadership principles; supervisory principles; strategic planning principles; budgetary principles; CUC operations and systems; project management principles; applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Monitoring and evaluating staff; prioritizing and assigning work to staff; preparing and administering budgets; balancing competing and varying resources and needs; developing and administering strategic plans; managing large, complex projects; giving presentations; preparing technical reports; using computers and related software applications; communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING

Location: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

Salary: $125,000.00 to $160,000.00 per annum.

(If hired from outside the NMI, relocation costs are negotiable. However: (1) not to exceed $15,000.00 for moving to the NMI and at least one year of employment must be served. Otherwise, employee may be required to refund employer the accommodation. And (2) not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from the NMI, and the employee must work to the contract's expiration date. Otherwise, employee may not be provided the accommodation.)

Position: One (1).

Contract: Two-year; subject to renewal.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 27, 1999

Senate tightens rules for entry of workers

Senators yesterday put into motion a measure that will tighten requirements for submission of health certificates and police clearance by alien workers seeking entry into the CNMI. Under a proposed bill they approved ahead of a congressional oversight hearing scheduled for next month, nonresidents who wish to seek employment in the Northern Marianas must secure these requirements from a list of US-approved hospitals, clinics and agencies from their country of origin. The legislation is part of the reform measures which local officials want to put in place in a bid to block attempts in the U.S. Congress to strip local authority over labor and immigration .

Tiff over CUC's drug test policy heightens

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez has lashed back at Thomas J. Camacho, chief of the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, for alleged "inaccuracies and apparent grandstanding" stemming from a recent memorandum. He criticized the memo issued by Camacho which had questioned the drug and alcohol policies of the government-owned utility firm in line with the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act or ADA. "Your memorandum, unfortunately, is based on numerous inaccuracies and its public release prior to adequate verification of the fact is nothing short of irresponsible," Villagomez said in a letter to Camacho.

Aug. 27, 2001

Government expenditures fall 10%

Strict compliance with its self-imposed austerity measures allowed the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to cut its spending by more than ten percent in the first three months of the current financial year, representing $6 million total savings. Records from the Department of Finance, contained in a Department of Commerce report prepared by the Central Statistics Division, disclosed the Tenorio Administration spent only about $50.5 million in the October to December 2000 period. Intensified cost-cutting steps and tighter monitoring of unnecessary spending were the major factors that helped the administration slash government expenditures from $56.8 million during the fourth quarter of the Fiscal Year 2000 to $50.5 million in the first three months of this financial year.

US Postal Service urged to catalog territories in stamps

A concurrent resolution is now pending before the US House of Representatives that would require the US Postal Service to come up with postage stamps that would commemorate the states and territories that make up the United States, including the CNMI. House Concurrent Resolution 215, which was authored by Guam Rep. Robert A. Underwood, urges Congress to direct the US Postal Service to come up with a series of postage stamps to commemorate each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the CNMI and Puerto Rico. The measure, filed on August 2, has been referred to the Committee on Government Reform.

Aug. 27, 2003

Atalig seeks on-island confinement

Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig yesterday appealed his conviction and sentence on federal wire fraud charges, and asked the U.S. District Court to defer the execution of his 63-month prison term that would begin tomorrow-the day when he was directed to surrender to federal custody. Atalig asked the court to allow him to remain at liberty pending the U.S. Bureau of Prison's designation of a facility where the senator would serve his sentence. He also requested the court to allow him to surrender himself at the designated facility-not the U.S. Marshal's Office where he was ordered to turn himself in tomorrow. But Atalig, through lawyer Stephen Woodruff, also asked the court to recommend to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft that Atalig be confined on Saipan, so the senator could assist his counsel in the preparation of the appeal. Atalig wants the execution of his sentence deferred pending the AG's determination of the issue.

PROTECTING AN INVESTMENT

What consumers need to know about lender-placed insurance

The CNMI Department of Commerce, through the office of the secretary and insurance commissioner, Sixto K. Igisomar, shares the released NAIC Consumer Alert on Lender-Placed Insurance.

During the last Interim-Meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) in Burlington, Vermont, and as recently as the NAIC 2012 Summer National Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, commissioner Igisomar along with other commissioners have been actively discussing issues surrounding the lender-placed insurance.

Igisomar stated, "Accessing NAIC and having active dialogue with its members and funneling the shared concerns to our citizens is the best option we have in keeping up with insurance regulatory and market trends, absent of sufficient local resources to actively monitor and enforce our regulations."

So, why are regulators reviewing lender-placed Insurance? "Reverse competition" is the key regulatory concern, because the consumer is forced to pay the premium on a policy selected by the lender. Under this practice the lender is not motivated to select the lowest price for coverages driving up prices for consumers. The NAIC, as well as regulators in Florida, California, New York, and Texas, recently held public hearings to learn more about these products and practices.

"Although it goes without saying, one of our goals is to continue to keep consumers informed and be aware of their rights and/or best practices surrounding their insurance policies," stated Charlette Cabrera Borja. "As we are indeed limited with our current austerity measures, we do hope and highly encourage our local citizens/consumers to help us out by informing us accordingly of any inconsistencies they may be seeing out there in our community."

What consumers need to know about lender-placed insurance

Today, consumers use credit to purchase almost everything from appliances to cars. For smaller purchases, like a new TV or washing machine, most credit lenders do not insist that a consumer buy insurance coverage. But for major purchases like a new home or car, however, the lender expects the consumer to insure the property against losses. Many consumers do not realize if they fail to purchase the necessary insurance, the lender can buy a policy on their behalf and charge the consumer. This type of coverage is referred to as lender-placed insurance. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recently began reviewing lender-placed insurance as the practice has became more common in this weakened economy. The NAIC offers this information to help consumers understand these practices and offers tips to avoid having insurance placed on their property.

What is lender-placed insurance?

Lender-placed insurance is a group policy where an insurer issues certificates of insurance to a bank or mortgage servicer when the consumer's own insurance policy may have lapsed or if the lender deems the consumers' insurance to be insufficient.

When a loan agreement is made with a bank or a lender, generally the lending document includes a stipulation requiring property insurance, often referred to as hazard insurance, on the property. The contract will spell out specifically what must be covered and how proof of coverage is to be submitted to the lender or the company servicing the loan. This is why, when insurance is purchased for a home or car, the insurance agent asks if there is a lienholder and the lender's name appears on a declarations page. If a consumer cannot provide proof of coverage, a lender can ask the insured to place insurance on the property in accordance with the terms of the lending contract.

Consumers may not realize, but a mortgage for a home located in a National Flood Insurance Program Special Flood Hazard Area will require flood insurance. If this is a requirement of the mortgage contract and it is not purchased, the lender can purchase the coverage and require the consumer to pay for it.

Why is it important to understand lender-placed insurance?

Lender-placed insurance premiums are higher than the property insurance a borrower can purchase on their own and consumers are billed by the lender for the cost of a lender-placed policy.

A lender will try to verify coverage before it acts to insure a collateral property and it will also notify the consumer of the action to insure the property. Be aware the standard mortgage loan contract allows a lender to secure property insurance back to the date they last show it was covered by the consumer's personal policy. This could result in a large bill for a more expensive insurance policy.

In addition to being more expensive, the lender-placed insurance policy also has limited coverage. For example, these policies generally do not cover personal items or owner liability. If a borrower does not pay the lender-placed insurance policy premium, they could be at risk of foreclose.

What can consumers do to avoid lender-placed insurance?

Consumers fail to maintain the required coverage for a variety of reasons—cancellation, a lapse in coverage, or even just a simple oversight. Paying insurance premiums on time and reviewing the paperwork received from the insurance company and the lender is the most important protection from lender-placed insurance.

In the case of a mortgage, the premium for lender-placed insurance can be taken directly from an escrow account. Any change in payment should be an alert to a possible insurance-related issue.

Many lenders use third-party companies to process payments and insurance information. If paperwork is not processed in a timely manner, or if verification of coverage is mistakenly sent to the wrong address, the lender may not realize the property is adequately covered and secure lender-placed coverage. It is important to check lender information on a policy's declarations page, and carefully review all statements received from the lender.

If changing insurance companies, it is important that there is no interruption between policies. It is also a good idea to notify the lender of any change and provide proof of coverage directly, instead of waiting for a copy to be mailed from the new insurance company.

More Information

The members of the NAIC continue to review the use of lender-placed insurance. Information about their work is available to consumers on the NAIC website. You may contact your state (http://map.naic.org/) or call our local CNMI Insurance Division Office at (670) 664-3064 or via email at cnmi.insurance@commerce.gov.mp and ask for Charlette Borja, insurance licensing officer.

Consumers looking for a way to control insurance costs can get smart about their insurance coverages. The NAIC Insure U (http://www.insureuonline.org/) education program has more about the choices available when it comes to coverage and how to evaluate their needs to find ways to save money on their premiums. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Diniskontentun Publiku

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Diniskontentu oppan ginen i publiku pot sinegnen diskuidu yan malabida siha ginen i presente na administrasion. Lau i prinsipiun lai ha prebeniye na innosiente i ma-akusa estake maprueba na huñgan guaha linache makomite.

I primet asuntu pot taya' fondu para i hospitat. Mientras sige i mediku ha resigna siha pot diskuidun administrasion, gaige maga'lahe ha attetende huntan pot kuraliñg.

I otru pot mafitman silensiu un' kontratan elektrisida ($190 miyon) ni gobietnu yan ginen attorney general ni ti ma-annunsia publikamente.

Gaige lokue' i lumalailai na asuntun pagamienton para man-ritirau ni sige machukan mona yan tatte gi kotten superiot guine. I umesague mas este na asuntu i lai ni linagnos i gobietnu mismu gi 1984 ni sinede administrasion ti man-apase kontribusion soluke finaisen Fondu para unna' halom apas. Pot este na gumuaha kase $320 miyon dibiña i administrasion gi fondun man-ritirau.

Ginacha' induktu i dañu ni inatisa nu este na lai. Sige pagu umensinahyau i gobietnu para u apase tatte i dibin administrasion gi fondu.

Ginen este siha na diskuidu yan taya' planu layeye sumo'yu' i minoria gi sanpapa' na guma umentroduse resulasion para umana suha i gobietnu. Lastima sa' kulan ma-apudera i sinseru na inañgoghun publiku.

■■■

Un' Pudera maseha ti amtiyun

Gi santatte, gaige hagahu Amberlynn kumakanta "Make A Wish" (Un' Pudera) gi fina' CD. I sustansian finaisen ayu na sunidu mamatmos gi taduñg na halom tanu' triniste. Ha fafaisen famaguon siha piot i man-inutet 'sino ti man-amtiyun chetnot niha na u fan mamatinas un' pudera (diniseha) maseha haf' mapadedese.

Hana' hassu-yu' un' patgon ni matai kanset gi mediu nubenta na sakan. Estabayu' Honolulu 'nai masañgane i nana yan i patgon mismu ni mediku na esta taya' ni hafa siña machogue. Sige i nana tumañges mientras ha totogtug i lahiña. Humuyuñg-yu' sa' ti hulañgag i didog na pininite yan triniste.

Piot sa' umafagcha' yan tiempon ha'anen gupot siha. Kada ratu ha faisenyu' i prohimu para bai'n kanta sunidun Noche Buena. Hu suñgun lahe lau makat i hu fafana' ni pinalolopu' triste na mensahe lau magof. Tai malefaghu ni mañge' chalegña yan finu' konkariñu dispues de kada kanta.

Esta pagu sumen makat hu kanta sunidon ha'anen gupot siha piot gi "bespiran noche buena" (Chirstmas Eve). Sessu gotganyu' sa' mafattu i yo'ase' na matan patgon antes de umadispone. Magahet na dinanche i hagahu na maseha makat, famatinas 'un pudera (wish) sa' siempre un' fattu gi un' malag yan imakulada na kantun tasi sa' un' tatitiye i ma-imprinta na lastroña gi inai.

■■■

Tunas na asuntu

Ha chule' i amku' un pusuelu ya hana'ye mediu hanom. Ha pega un' lapes halom. I figuran lapes umechuñg deste mediu patte gi halom hanom.

Ha faisen i mangaige gi oriya kau tunas pat echuñg i lapes gi sagaña. Dos klasen ineppe guha: tunas yan echuñg. Ha lagnos i lapes ya ha fanue todus. Ilegña, "I lapes tunas ya u saga tunas maseha tinilaika ma'ataña gi halom mediu hanom na pusuelu".

I puntu: I tunas na che'chu' tautau, makat na unna' echuñg sa' tunas na disposision 'nai madiside. Ayu ha' para u echuñg i lache na disision yan disposision.

Gi che'chu' linahyan (disposision offisiat publiku siha) sumen presisu na u tunas todu disposision ni man-maseñala para u benefisia mayotmente. Yangin chatdinance i disision pues añgogku na lache lokue' i uttimu resutta sa' deste tutuhon lache.

Guaha lokue' mansañgan na i "Ma'pos ha indidika i mamamaila.'" Pot esso na sumen presisu na u guaha satton na inadahe gi todu pinetsigen asuntun linahyan. Gaige este na responsablidat espesiatmente gi man-ma-elihe na offisiat publiku.

Manmanhula' hamyu na para i adelanta ha'anen i linahyan. Oppe fan kabales kau in'chegue este dispues de in' katsa hamyu kotbata yan saku?

■■■

'An mattu fanata'an (tiempun uchan), sosobla hanom maseha manu hau guatu. I tinanom man-matmus mientras i pinegsai man-liheñg gi fina' safu na lugat. I peskadot lokue' mandeskansa sa' este na tiempu 'nai manloka' siha i lañgat gi hiyuñg rubentasion. Lau alulaye kumadu i mañañada' na punidera para amotsan talo'ane 'sino sena. Este i tiempun fanata'an 'nai paire i kaddun manog 'sino to'lañg.

Where have all the heroes gone?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

As I sit and think about what I should discuss with us today, my first reaction is to start criticizing how we are handling the problems we are facing. But would that help the situation we are in? Isn't everybody already hurling enough criticism and feeling anxious at what is happening? Instead let's look at the problems from a different perspective.

Picture all of us in a large boat drifting aimlessly in the ocean. Suddenly someone notices a small leak with water slowly coming in. He turns to all of us and says: "Hey, have you noticed the leak in the boat?"

The person next to him replies: "Yes, but the hole is small and the water is only very little." So everyone ignores the water sipping through the hole and goes back to his personal matters.

Later another person stands up and says: "Guess what, the leak is getting bigger and I think the water is higher. Shouldn't we do something about it?"

"No, it's only a few inches deep. It will stop shortly," someone shouts back.

Soon another person stands up: "Hey, let's form a committee and discuss the leak. If we don't, we may have a bigger problem later."

"Okay, good idea. Let's see do we have a budget? How long will it take to form a committee and who should be on it?"

By now the water is knee deep and the boat is getting a bit unstable with all the water in it. No one dares to move for fear of rocking the boat.

We slowly turn to a group of men huddled in a corner talking among themselves. Hey, aren't these the captain and the men we elected to steer us out of this problem?

As we glance at the group, we notice that none of them is excited about the leak, but each is calmly discussing the problem within his own little clique. Meanwhile the water is rising higher and higher.

You and I, the general public, realize that we need help quickly. Many of us have lost jobs. Our income is shrinking daily. Prices are skyrocketing. The hospital is on its last breath. The CUC keeps causing many businesses to fold because of the high cost of utilities. The pension fund is already under water. On and on. In many ways our island is sinking as the leak becomes bigger and bigger.

Yet, we all seem paralyzed to do something. Some if us have already jumped into life rafts and deserted the ship. All the while we stare intently at this group of men. Why aren't they doing something? Didn't they tell us if we elected them to be our leaders, they would guide us to safety?

Where are our heroes? Didn't we put our trust in them to help us? Where are the heroes who will stand up and accept the challenges and risks associated with the task? Where is their will and determination? Didn't we give them the power to make decisions?

I really don't believe we don't know how to solve our problems. We created them and we can solve them. We are intelligent, but we seem to have a naïve understanding how business is done.

We have had and still have many investors who come here, but for some strange reason we keep scaring them away. We fail to realize that when investors come in, they study the market with its opportunities. They also calculate the risks they have to take to recover at least their principal.

It seems strange to me that while we welcome investors, we view them with leery eyes. We feel that they will rip us off. But look at any small business. When we go into a restaurant or a grocery store, do we figure out how much the owner is gouging us with his meal or groceries prices?

The investor is the same. He takes a risk and needs a profit. But every time we solicit bids for projects or discuss investments with investors, we freeze and turn them off. How naïve! Instead we should have a government agency whose role is to cooperate with all investors so that they and we win. It should be a win-win situation.

You and I can do little except protest and complain because the real power for change lies in our elected leaders' hands. It is they who can push the buttons to make changes. We have abdicated our power to them.

In a few months we will be marching to the polls to elect our Legislators again. To date we have about 81 and climbing! Think of it—81! How many of them are retreads? How many have experience or background to be a Legislator? Many of them are merely looking for a job. And the retreads that we will vote for again feel that they are doing such a great job that they should be reelected. So the sad cycle goes round and round.

People, please let's question their background, ability, and determination to rescue us from the rising water in the almost flooded boat!

Let me remind you of the story of Alexander the Great and what he did when he was faced with an insoluble problem. In 333 B.C. as Alexander the Great was leading his armies across Asia, he reached the city of Gordium in Phyria. There he was shown the chariot of the ancient founder of the city. Its pole was lashed to the yoke by means of an intricate knot. According to tradition, this knot was to be untied only by the future conqueror of Asia. Many brave men had tried and all had failed.

Legend has it that Alexander looked at the knot, drew his sword and sliced through the knot with a single stroke. And as was predicated, shortly afterwards, Asia was united for the first time under his rule. He could have done as all the others had before him and failed. But he took a fresh approach and that made all the difference in his career and for Asia. What if he had followed the thinking of the herd? Instead he became a hero with his creative thinking.

One of my favorite heroes is the late Mayor Frank Fasi of Honolulu. He served as mayor for 22 years during which time Honolulu became one of the most advanced and favorite places both for tourists and residents.

I was fortunate to be living in Honolulu during his time in office and knew him quite well while I was serving on the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Fasi was called a "firebrand," "trailblazer," "maverick." He helped to design and built the Satellite City Hall. In the Capitol district he bulldozed massive parking structures near the Hawaii state Capitol, Iolani Palace, and the Kawaiaha'a Church to create massive large parcels of green space known as the Honolulu Civic Center.

My favorite recollection of him is when the City Council and others opposed his plan to clear the massive parking structures in the area I mentioned above. Finally, totally frustrated by their stonewalling, one early morning he brought in about a half a dozen bulldozers and leveled the site before dawn. When the City Council and his opponents came to work that morning, they were appalled at what they saw. Here was the ground leveled ready for planting grass and trees.

Today when you visit that area in Honolulu you will appreciate what he did as have the citizens and tourists ever since. What if he had been afraid of the risks? Was he serving himself or the betterment of his people? Mayor Fasi battled an impacted establishment. He was an arrogant gut fighter who shot from the hips and to hell with the consequences. A true hero! Where are our heroes?

Excuse me, I must go and seek our hero. I know he waits and will come forth and do the right thing. You come too and help look for him. If he knows we need him he will come out and be our champion. Hello, Hero, where are you?

Remember the shortest distance between two people is a SMILE!

Have a great week and keep SMILING!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impeach!

While the CNMI Republican House majority continues to defend Governor Fitial and comes up with excuses as to why he should not be impeached, I would like to ask them a few questions:

1. When disgraced former Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham fled Saipan and had law officials to shield him from being served a penal summons, do you honestly believe this was not orchestrated by Governor Fitial? Do you really think that Governor Fitial's personal driver just showed up on his own in the wee hours of the morning to offer a ride to Bucky and his wife Pam? Do you think it is acceptable that federally funded "Human Trafficking Unit" vehicles are being used to transport people and their luggage? Do you think the law officials involved just decided to give AG Buckingham a "royal escort" using federally funded vehicles? Do you think manhandling a news journalist and physically stopping her from doing her job while standing on public grounds is acceptable police behavior? Do you think using law officials to thwart a penal summons from being served is an abuse of power? If not for the FBI serving the summons and a journalist filming this fiasco, don't you think Bucky would have gotten away without being served the summons and the public would know nothing about it? Shouldn't you be thanking OPA, the FBI, and KSPN News reporter Tina Sablan and condemning Governor Fitial and Ed Buckingham and the law officials who attempted to obstruct justice?

2. Regarding Governor Fitial's sole-source $190 million, 25-year power generation contract with a five-day-old shady company that has been linked to an ex-convict, aren't you concerned about the huge cost to us taxpayers? If the cost of building a 50-megawatt plant is estimated by experts to be about $50 million as previously reported, isn't the $190-million price tag a complete rip-off? Aren't you concerned that future generations will have to make huge payments on this overpriced power plant for 25 consecutive years, even if it may not be needed in the future? Isn't alternative and renewable energy technology developing rapidly right now all over the world, and don't we think it will be even more affordable within the next decade, let alone 25 years? Why aren't you doing the math or why don't you get someone who knows math to explain to you that the $190 million is only a drop in the bucket compared to the associated and indirect costs, which could possibly end up costing us taxpayers more than $2 billion? Why aren't you concerned that the governor and the escaped fugitive/former AG Ed Buckingham are the signatories on the contract, but both of them have ZERO experience with regard to power generation and diesel generators? Why aren't you upset that this secretive contract is not even needed right now, according to the former executive director of CUC and other experts? And if this diesel power plant truly is needed, then why are we not following procurement regulations and BIDDING IT OUT? Isn't that why we have procurement regulations? To ensure fair bidding? Why was this contract so secretive anyway? Shouldn't anything that is going to cost $190 million be thoroughly researched and analyzed by experts and APPROVED by CNMI taxpayers, since it is OUR MONEY, not Governor Fitial's money? And shouldn't any power contracts be coming from the office of CUC and not the greedy hands of Governor Fitial?

3. Why are you so reluctant to impeach the governor? Is it because you are part of the Republican Party and he is in charge of your party? Is your loyalty with the people, or is it with the governor? With 16 articles of impeachment, do you honestly believe none of them are true? If you think at least one of the articles of impeachment is true, do you not realize this is grounds for impeachment? What about neglect of duty? Do you think Governor Fitial is neglecting the people of the CNMI when he takes his wife and his press secretary on a three-week junket using taxpayer money? Do you think this is acceptable, when people are dying because their Medicaid is no longer being accepted so they cannot have access to doctors and medicine that is needed to keep them alive?

These are only a few questions that I ask the Republican House Majority. A friend stated that we should go and meet with these leaders. But my question to him is, is it not their job to meet with us? Why can't they take a lesson from Congressman Kilili Sablan and host a public forum? Is it because they are afraid we will come with tough questions and will see right through their bogus excuses? Someone needs to remind them that they are PUBLIC SERVANTS and they are supposed to listen to our people. But these leaders must do more than just listen to our people—they must also listen to their conscience!

My dearest friends and family, we all know that each year Governor Fitial has been in office, things have continually gotten worse, with absolutely no signs of improvement. There are no investors pouring in to the CNMI like he promised. There are no peanut butter factories. Or shoe factories. He has failed to deliver on any of his "Better Times" campaign promises, but he has certainly not failed to deliver us a ton of excuses, lies, and shame. When you have your personal driver selling ice out of your own car, that is SHAMEFUL. When you use taxpayer money to travel the world with your wife and press secretary while our people are dying, that is SHAMEFUL. But when you break out a federal detainee from prison to get a midnight massage, that is ILLEGAL. When you order public safety officials to stop a criminal from being served a penal summons, that is ILLEGAL. When you use a state of emergency as a disguise to pass out sole-source contracts that are detrimental to our people and ignore procurement laws and regulations, that is not only ILLEGAL...it is also an ABUSE OF POWER.

We have two more years under Governor Fitial's reign. My question to you is, can we really afford another two years? Look around you. Look at the deplorable condition of the CNMI. And yet, Governor Fitial still has people defending him, trying to explain that he "inherited" these problems. Yes, Governor Fitial inherited problems. But he was ELECTED to solve our problems, NOT ADD TO THEM! Why can't some people get this through their thick skulls?

Governor Fitial likes to refer to himself as the "Father of the CNMI." But my question is, what kind of father goes on three-week junkets around the world while his "children" are left at home to suffer and die? What kind of father would get first-class medical check-ups and treatment at the finest hospitals in the United States and the Philippines, but not even leave any money for his "children" to buy medicine for when they are sick? What kind of father would make sole-source deals that will bankrupt his "children" for 25 years? I'm sorry, but these are not the actions of a "Father of the CNMI." These are actions of greed, gluttony, and abuse of power.

Lives are at stake right now, and so is the future of our children. If you stand by and allow this abuse to continue, then you are just as guilty as the perpetrators. Corruption and evil only exist because good people do nothing. Please, join the fight. Do what is right. It is never too late to do the right thing. And the right thing to do right now is to put pressure on our leaders to IMPEACH this governor. As I told a friend, the impeachment is only the beginning. We will have to work together to solve the CNMI's problems. But we cannot solve any problems while we are constantly battling a governor who continues to drive our poor economy deeper in to debt and is on the verge of ruining our children's future for 25 full years. It must end now, before it is too late.

Thank you to all the great people living in the CNMI and abroad who are taking a stand and speaking out. When we succeed, it will be because of brave people like you who decided that these beautiful islands are worth fighting for. It is no longer just about us...it is about our children. Pot fabot, let us do the right thing, right now.

And if this Republican House majority FAILS to impeach Governor Fitial, then let us remember this and be sure to IMPEACH them from office in November. We need courageous leaders right now who are loyal to the people, not spineless leaders who are loyal to a dictator.

May God bless the good people of the CNMI.

Ed Propst,
Dandan, Saipan

'A sense of duty'

Dear legislator,

Most of you know me; some of you may not like me very much. Understandable in view of past criticism. Regardless of "history," I now appeal to each and every one of you to think deeply in the next few days about why you are where you are. It involves so much more than the fact that a majority of voters in your precinct cast a vote for your election.

It involves so much more than the fact that you represent the voice of the people and your mandate to uphold the Constitution of the CNMI, of the United States of America and your sworn requirement to uphold the very laws that you are charged to make.

You are faced with a decision to remove from office the highest elected official in the CNMI: Governor Fitial. Yes, I am among the 94 percent of the local population (online polls in BOTH the *Tribune* and *MVariety*) that favors impeachment. But I do not write this to plead for your compliance; I write it to ask you to place the people of the CNMI ahead of your ambition or your self-imposed sense of obligation to your party-mate.

Throughout my long career with the U.S. government, I was taught, and adhered to the principle of "service" to the public over which my decisions, based firmly in law, held a certain "survival" of their business or their standard of life. I was not "elected" but rather chose that service—because it "felt right." Now, I ask you to do the same.

Here are a few thoughts for your consideration from the people, from "legal" references and from me:

1. FROM THE PEOPLE:

An online voting poll presented in both the *Tribune* and *Variety* during the past week indicated 94 percent of the votes cast favor impeachment of the governor in each paper.

Some persons may be voting more than once but the percentage difference has not varied during the week. Therefore, statistically speaking, a consistent vote of 94 percent to 6 percent indicates those voting are not only "impeachers" or "outsiders" as suggested by some Fitial supporters in online blogs, but actually represents the true sentiments of an overwhelming portion of the populace.

2. FROM "LEGAL" REFERENCES:

Corruption: Politics

"Political corruption is the abuse of public power, office, or resources by elected government officials for personal gain, e.g. By extortion, soliciting or offering bribes. It can also take the form of office holders maintaining themselves in office by purchasing votes by enacting laws which use taxpayer money. Systemic corruption is the complete subversion of a political or economic system. Governmental corruption of judiciary is broadly known in many transitional and developing countries because the budget is almost completely controlled by the executive. The latter undermines the separation of powers, as it creates a critical financial dependence of the judiciary. The proper national wealth distribution including the government spending on the judiciary is subject of the constitutional economics. It is important to distinguish between the two methods of corruption of the judiciary: the government (through budget planning and various privileges), and the private."

"Political corruption is the use of power by government officials for illegitimate private gain. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is not considered political corruption. Neither are illegal acts by private persons or corporations not directly involved with the government. An illegal act by an officeholder constitutes political corruption only if the act is directly related to their official duties, is done under color of law or involves trading in influence."

"Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement. Corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking, though is not restricted to these activities."

"Corruption also generates economic distortions in the public sector by diverting public investment into capital projects where bribes and kickbacks are more plentiful. Officials may increase the technical complexity of public sector projects to conceal or pave the way for such dealings, thus further distorting investment. Corruption also lowers compliance with construction, environmental, or other regulations, reduces the quality of government services and infrastructure, and increases budgetary pressures on government."

"Favoring relatives (nepotism) or personal friends (cronyism) of an official is a form of illegitimate private gain."

Systemic corruption:

"Systemic corruption (or endemic corruption) is corruption which is primarily due to weaknesses of an organization or process. It can be contrasted with individual officials or agents who act corruptly within the system."

"Factors which encourage systemic corruption include conflicting incentives, discretionary powers; monopolistic powers; lack of transparency; low pay; and a culture of impunity. Specific acts of corruption include "bribery, extortion, and embezzlement" in a system where "corruption becomes the rule rather than the exception."

Neglect of Duty: (from USLegal.com)

"Neglect of duty is the omission to perform a duty. Neglect of duty has reference to the neglect or failure on the part of a public officer to do and perform some duty or duties laid on him as such by virtue of his office or which is required of him by law. It is not material whether the neglect is willful, through malice, ignorance or oversight, when such neglect is grave and the frequency of it is such as to endanger or threaten the public welfare, it is gross. [State ex rel. Hardie v. Coleman, 115 Fla. 119 (Fla. 1934)]."

3) From me:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature: The people are crying out to you; they are bearing unbearable obstacles by fault of their own unforeseen mistake (re-electing Fitial). They are looking to you to correct that mistake. They are looking to you for "A Sense of Duty"—the "Duty" you owe to those who put their trust in you. Please remember, that the act of impeachment is NOT a determination of illegal actions. You need only believe that the object of the impeachment has repeatedly failed to act in the best interest of the people. Those of you in the Senate must also remember that there is NO judicial review of your actions; YOU are the final, irrevocable word!

And just what IS "your" sense of duty? Well, here's what I think it is (from "The Free On-Line Dictionary"):

"Motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions"

You must now take it upon yourselves, both individually and together, to apply the ethical and moral principles of the DUTY your office demands and apply logic and reason to arrive at a just and righteous decision to relieve the oppression of the people.

WHO among you can stand and justify the series of events wrought upon the CNMI by Mr. Fitial and still honestly affirm that you have SERVED the people and your office to the best of your ability? WHICH of you will put away your sense of "obligation" to a single man and find the true obligation you have to the electorate? HOW many of you will stand to redeem the values of your little corner of the greatest Democratic Republic on earth?

The case for impeachment is clear under the definitions given above—and the people have spoken; this is NOT the time for delay as to do so would surely and gravely negatively affect the future welfare of the state and further erodes the confidence of the public in your ability to carry out the demands of your office.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.
Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86 ° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

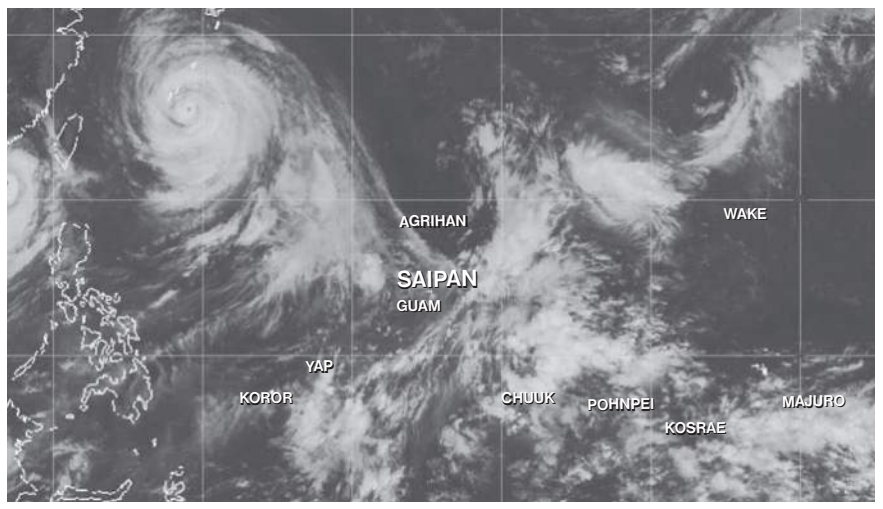
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲80	▼70
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼62
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼46
Miami	Rain	▲81	▼80
New York	Sunny	▲83	▼69
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲93	▼77
Paris	Mosty Sunny	▲78	▼63
Pusan	Windy	▲87	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Bolaven (16W) is centered 110 miles southeast of Okinawa at 26N129E, and is moving northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the center, or northwest of a line from 21N130E to 25N135E. Converging southwest monsoonal winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in two areas southeast of the center. The first area lies within 80 miles of a line from 17N130E to 21N136E. The second is located within 70 miles of a line from 16N135E to 18N138E to 23N138E. For more detailed information on typhoon Bolaven, see bulletins issued by the joint typhoon warning center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A surface trough extends northeastward from a broad circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N143E to pass near Saipan at 15N146E and finally to beyond 25N at 149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Yap and south of Guam, or south of a line from 10N137E to 11N145E. An upper-level trough stretches northwestward from 3N152E to a low centered northeast of Agrihan at 20N148E, then turns northeastward to beyond 25N at 160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:54PM	1:35 AM
Tuesday	3:47PM	2:35 AM
Wednesday	4:36PM	3:34 AM
Thursday	5:22PM	4:31 AM
Friday	6:04PM	5:26 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple's $1B patent verdict could corner market

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—It was the $1 billion question Saturday: What does Apple Inc.'s victory in an epic patent dispute over its fiercest rival mean for the U.S. smartphone industry?

Analysts from Wall Street to Hong Kong debated whether a jury's decision that Samsung Electronics Co. ripped off Apple technology would help Apple corner the U.S. smartphone market over Android rivals, or amount to one more step in a protracted legal battle over smartphone technology.

Many analysts said the decision could spell danger for competitors who, like Samsung, use Google Inc.'s Android operating system to power their cellphones.

"I am sure this is going to put a damper on Android's growth," New York-based Isi Group analyst Brian Marshall said, "It hurts the franchise."

The Silicon Valley jury found that some of Samsung's products illegally copied features and designs exclusive to Apple's iPhone and iPad. The verdict was narrowly tailored to only Samsung, which sold more than 22 million smartphones and tablets that Apple claimed used its technology, including the "bounce-back" feature when a user scrolls to an end image, and the ability to zoom text with a tap of a finger.

But most other Apple competitors have used the Android system to produce similar technology, which could limit the features offered on all non-Apple phones, analysts said.

"The other makers are now scrambling" to find alternatives, said Rob Enderle, a leading technology analyst based in San Jose.

AP

Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S III, right, and Apple's iPhone 4S are displayed at a mobile phone shop in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Aug. 24, 2012.

Seo Won-seok, a Seoul-based analyst at Korea Investment said that the popular zooming and bounce-back functions the jury said Samsung stole from Apple will be hard to replicate.

The companies could opt to pay Apple licensing fees for access to the technology or develop smarter technology to create similar features that don't violate the patent—at a cost likely to be passed onto consumers.

Apple lawyers are planning to ask that the two dozen Samsung devices found to have infringed its patents be barred from the U.S. market. Most of those devices are "legacy" products with almost nonexistent new sales in the United States. Apple lawyers will also ask that the judge triple the damage award to $3 billion since the jury found Samsung "willfully" copied Apple's patents.

A loss to the Android-based market would represent a big hit for Google as well. Google relies on Android devices to drive mobile traffic to its search engine, which in turn generates increased advertising revenue. Android is becoming increasingly more important to Google's bottom line because Apple is phasing out reliance on Google services such as YouTube and mapping as built-in features on the iPhone and iPad.

Some experts cautioned that the decision might not be final, noting the California lawsuit is one of nine similar legal actions across the globe between the two leading smartphone makers.

Samsung has vowed to appeal the verdict all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that Apple's patents for such "obvious" things as rounded rectangle were wrongly granted. A Sept. 20 hearing is scheduled.

The $1 billion represents about 1.5 percent of Samsung's annual revenue. Jerome Schaufield, a technology professor at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute said the verdict wouldn't upend a multibillion-dollar global industry.

France's Hollande says Greece must remain in euro

PARIS (AP)—French President Francois Hollande praised the Greek people on Saturday for making painful budget cuts, while urging them to do more to show their commitment to reforms to keep their country in the euro zone.

"For me, the question should no longer be asked: Greece is in the eurozone," Hollande said after meeting Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras in Paris.

But like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Hollande offered Greece no immediate relief from its current regime of painful austerity measures.

The Greek premier has been on a swing through European capitals as part of his country's push to win more time to carry out wrenching cuts to avert fiscal crisis.

On Friday, Merkel met with Samaras in Berlin and said she expects Greece to meet its previous commitments, while stressing Germany wants to keep it in the euro.

Hollande also said that any decision on delays for Greece must wait for a report next month by the "troika" of Greece's debt inspectors—the EU's executive Commission, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

Greece, Hollande said, "must demonstrate the credibility of its program and the willingness of its leaders to go all out all the while making sure that it is tolerable for the population." He said Europe needs to make decisions about Greece "the sooner the better"—notably after the report is presented to a European Union summit in October.

"In the face of ordeals, we must show more solidarity. ... I hailed the efforts that the Greek people have committed to painfully for the last two years," Hollande said. "We need to be aware of all that has been done."

Samaras, for his part, noted continued pressure within the financial markets amid concerns that Athens might not hold to its reform plans—and risk dropping out of the common currency.

"Some continue to speculate against Greece .... to speculate by saying that Greece won't pull through, that it can't stay in the euro zone," Samaras said. "I'm here today to say that will pull through—it will stay in the euro zone."

"I also think we can fulfill our commitments and goals, reduce our deficits, reduce our debt, achieve the structural reforms that have begun—privatizations—and justice," he added.

Following the leaders' comments to reporters, a Hollande adviser said the two men had also discussed the increasing flow of Syrian refugees into Greece and Cyprus as they fled fighting linked to the bloody rebellion against President Bashar Assad's regime.

Nation

Obama-Romney race is focused on 7 states

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—On the eve of their national party conventions, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are locked in a close race to amass the requisite 270 Electoral College votes for victory. And the contest is exactly where it was at the start of the long, volatile summer: focused on seven states that are up for grabs.

Neither candidate has a significant advantage in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire and Virginia, which offer a combined 85 electoral votes, according to an Associated Press analysis of public and private polls, spending on television advertising and numerous interviews with Republican and Democratic strategists in battleground states.

The analysis, which also took into account the strength of a candidate's on-the-ground organization and travel schedules, found that if the election were held today, Obama would have 19 states and the District of Columbia, offering 247 votes, solidly in his column or leaning his way, while Republican Romney would have 24 states with 206 votes.

Obama won all seven of the too-close-to-call states in 2008, and they are where the race will primarily be contested in the homestretch to the Nov. 6 election.

Ten weeks before Election Day, the AP analysis isn't meant to be predictive but rather is intended to provide a snapshot of a race that's been stubbornly close all year.

Among the unknowns that could shake up the electoral landscape before November: the latest unemployment figures that come out early next month, an unexpected foreign policy crisis in Syria or Iran and the outcome of the candidates' October debates.

Both sides are working to persuade the 23 percent of registered voters who said in an Associated Press-GfK poll that they are either undecided about the presidential race or iffy in their support for a candidate.

To woo them, the campaigns and political parties, along with allied groups with access to unlimited financial contributions, have already spent an astounding $540 million on television advertising, according to ad spending reports provided to the AP. And there's more to come.

Over the past three months, the campaign took a sharply negative turn, at times becoming nasty and personal.

Obama sought to define Romney early as a ruthless corporate raider for his time at the head of a private equity firm in Boston, and as an out-of-touch rich man keeping secrets about his wealth. Romney, in turn, worked to cast Obama as a failed president on a host of fronts, primarily the economy.

Both candidates have hit road bumps: Obama saw the unemployment rate rise to 8.3 percent and gave Republicans an opening to argue that he was unfriendly to small business. Romney had a widely panned foreign trip and made a series of potentially problematic comments, most recently joking about the debunked conspiracy theory regarding Obama's citizenship.

Storm forces GOP to scrap first day of convention

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Republican officials abruptly announced plans Saturday night to scrap the first day of their national convention, bowing to the threat of Tropical Storm Isaac as it bore down menacingly on Florida.

"The safety of those in Isaac's path is of the utmost importance," tweeted Mitt Romney, his formal nomination as presidential candidate pushed back by a minimum of 24 hours from Monday night to Tuesday.

The announcement was made as delegates and other convention-goers flocked to the Tampa Bay area by the planeload for what had been scripted as four days of political pageantry and speechmaking with a purpose—to propel Romney into the fall campaign against President Barack Obama.

Officials said they hoped to begin laying out a revised schedule on Sunday.

Romney campaigned in battleground Ohio during the day, pledging to help female entrepreneurs and innovators who are eager to create small businesses and the jobs that go with them. It was an economy-themed countdown to a convention taking shape in a city already bristling with security—and bracing for a possible hurricane.

"Women in this country are more likely to start businesses than men. Women need our help," said the Republican presidential challenger, eager to relegate recent controversy over abortion to the sidelines and make the nation's slow economic recovery the dominant issue of his convention week.

Reince Priebus, the Republican Party chairman, told reporters on an early evening conference call that no state delegations had changed their travel plans because of the storm. "Everyone is planning on being here and we hope we are up and running and expect all of our delegates to be here," he said.

Yet with rain and high winds in the forecast, and with the threat of a storm surge and possible flooding, convention organizers said they were making contingency plans to move delegates who have been booked into beachfront hotels to other locations if necessary.

North Dakota Republican Party Chairman Stan Stein said he needed instructions on preparing emergency kits for the 65 to 70 people in his state's contingent staying at a hotel 200 yards off the water in Treasure Island. "We do blizzards. We can handle them, but we're just going to go on the advice we're getting from hotel management on how to prepare for this," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYPD: Empire State victims hit by police gunfire

NEW YORK (AP)—All nine people injured during a dramatic confrontation between police and a gunman outside the Empire State Building were wounded by gunfire from the two officers, police said Saturday, citing ballistics evidence. The veteran patrolmen who opened fire on the suit-clad gunman, Jeffrey Johnson, had only an instant to react when he whirled around and pointed a .45-caliber pistol at them as they approached him from behind on a busy sidewalk. Officer Craig Matthews shot seven times, and Officer Robert Sinishtaj fired nine times, police said. Neither had ever fired their weapons before on a patrol.

Grizzly bear kills hiker in Denali National Park

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A hiker in Alaska's Denali National Park photographed a grizzly bear for at least eight minutes before the bear mauled and killed him in the first fatal attack in the park's history, officials said Saturday. Investigators have recovered the camera and looked at the photographs, which show the bear grazing and not acting aggressively before the attack, Denali Park Superintendent Paul Anderson said. The hiker was backpacking alone along the Toklat River on Friday afternoon when he came within 50 yards of the bear, far closer than the quarter-mile of separation required by park rules, officials said.

Asia

Aquino names PH's 1st female chief justice

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president appointed the country's first female Supreme Court chief justice Friday and praised her ability to lead the court after her predecessor was removed for constitutional violations.

President Benigno Aquino III was confident Maria Lourdes Sereno will lead "in undertaking much-needed reforms" in the judiciary and "restore our people's confidence in the judicial system," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

Sereno has been an associate justice on the 15-member tribunal since August 2010 and was formerly a law professor. Now 52, she will serve on the court until retirement at 70.

Former chief justice Renato Corona was impeached and convicted in May for not disclosing his $2.4 million bank accounts. Aquino had called Corona an obstacle in his anti-corruption campaign.

Sereno was one of the minority members of the court who voted in favor of the Aquino government's order to stop former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from leaving the country allegedly to evade corruption charges.

AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, left, congratulates Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno following her oath-taking ceremony Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012 at Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

Sereno was one of the eight nominees for chief justice submitted to Aquino by the Judicial and Bar Council. In an unprecedented move to show transparency in choosing the chief justice, the council conducted a televised interview of all 20 aspirants to the post and took questions from the public via Twitter and Facebook.

In a brief statement, Sereno assured her countrymen she would stand by her oath "faithfully to the end of my term."

"This is a serious job that calls for the support of the entire country for it to be successful and I understand the implications of this job," she said, adding she will announce her proposed judicial reforms soon.

Pakistan probes report US strike kills Haqqani son

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan is investigating whether the son of the founder of the powerful Haqqani militant network, which has been blamed for high-profile attacks and kidnappings in Afghanistan, was killed in a U.S. drone strike this week, officials said Saturday.

If confirmed, the death of Badruddin Haqqani, who has been described as the network's day-to-day operations commander, would mark a major blow to the organization founded by his father, Jalaluddin Haqqani, and viewed by the U.S. as a powerful enemy in neighboring Afghanistan.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials said Saturday they are 90 percent certain Badruddin was killed Tuesday in North Waziristan in an American missile attack. They said their information was based on reports received from their agents in the field but acknowledged they haven't spoken to anyone who has seen the body.

A senior Taliban commander said a U.S. drone strike killed Badruddin. There was no independent confirmation, and the U.S. does not comment publicly on the controversial drone program, which is widely reviled by the Pakistani public and has been a source of tension with Islamabad.

All spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the news.

The areas where the American drone strikes generally occur are extremely remote and dangerous, making it difficult for reporters or others to verify a particular person's death.

Badruddin is considered a vital part of the Haqqani structure and is believed to have played an active role in kidnappings, extortion and high-profile operations in Afghanistan. He is believed to be the network's day-to-day operations commander, according to a report by the Institute for the Study of War.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Powerful typhoon approaches Japan's Okinawa island

TOKYO (AP)—The strongest typhoon to approach Okinawa in several years was bearing down on the southern Japanese island on Sunday as officials warned residents to stay indoors and take the utmost precaution to ensure their families' safety. Slow-moving Typhoon Bolaven was centered about 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Okinawa and was expected to pass over the island Sunday evening, dumping as much as 500 millimeters (20 inches) of rain over a 24-hour period, weather officials said. The typhoon was packing extremely strong gusts reaching 250-kilometers-per-hour (155-miles-per-hour), which could knock over telephone poles and even overturn cars, public broadcaster NHK warned. Waves could top 12 meters (13 yards), it said.

US sends basketball players, coaches to Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The U.S. has appointed an ambassador to Myanmar and helped bring in American businessmen keen on doing business in the rapidly reforming Southeast Asian nation. Now, Washington is sending professional basketball players and coaches in a bid to boost cultural ties. The U.S. Embassy said Sunday that four "sports envoys" will be in the country this week as part of a U.S. State Department-sponsored program "to emphasize the importance of academics, cooperation, and respect for diversity." The group will conduct several sports workshops with local youth before leaving Friday. Three of the envoys arrived this weekend and the last one is due to fly into Yangon later Sunday.

Bus collides with tanker in China, killing 36

BEIJING (AP)—A double-decker sleeper bus rammed into a tanker loaded with highly-flammable methanol on a northern Chinese highway early Sunday, causing both vehicles to burst into flames and killing 36 people, state media said. The official Xinhua News Agency said 39 people were on the long distance sleeper bus when it crashed and only three survived. The survivors were hospitalized, it said, but didn't say what condition they were in. The tanker had just returned to the highway after an early morning rest stop when it was apparently rear-ended by the bus at around 2:40 a.m. close to the city of Yan'an in Shaanxi province, the official China News website said.

World

Hamas scales back hopes of open Egypt border

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Business is down because of an Egyptian security clampdown, but smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border keep operating under the supervision of Gaza's Hamas rulers.

The militant Hamas had hoped the Islamists who took charge in Egypt this summer—fellow members of the region's Muslim Brotherhood—would swiftly turn the shared border crossing into a free-flowing trade route, ending Gaza's five-year isolation from the world and making the tunnels obsolete.

However, a senior Hamas official acknowledged that Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi hasn't promised dramatic change, even as he tries to distance himself from the policy of his ousted predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, of keeping Gaza sealed.

"I think it's a mistake that some people expected a lot from the new political regime (in Egypt)," Ghazi Hamad, deputy foreign minister of Gaza and a key Hamas point man with Egypt, said in an interview this week. "Egypt is a big country and Gaza is not the only problem for Egypt."

Gaza became a bigger problem for Egypt after an Aug. 5 attack in which gunmen in the Sinai Peninsula, next to Gaza, killed 16 Egyptian soldiers. That raised new worries about the smuggling of weapons and militants through border tunnels, and Egypt is investigating whether the assailants had ties to Gaza.

Hamas denies anyone from Gaza was involved and said it is cooperating with the Egyptian investigation, but senior Hamas figures also complained about a subsequent Egyptian border clampdown.

Despite the Egyptian security sweep, Morsi has assured Hamas leaders Egypt wants a new border regime. Some in Hamas and even some Egyptian officials raised the idea of a free trade zone between Egypt and Gaza.

However, open cross-border trade could trigger unintended consequences. Stronger Gaza-Egypt ties would deepen Gaza's economic and political separation from the West Bank, located on the opposite side of Israel, and undercut already remote chances of melding the two areas into a Palestinian state.

Trade ties could also hurt Egypt's own attempts to broker a unity deal between Hamas and its main rival, West Bank-based Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. An open border to Egypt would boost Gaza's hobbled economy, strengthen Hamas and might make reconciliation even less desirable for the Islamic militants who balked in the past at giving Abbas a renewed say in Gaza for the sake of unity. Hamas seized the territory from Abbas by force in 2007.

Expanding control, Syrian rebels run prisons

Al-BAB, Syria (AP)—An elementary school hallway in this north Syrian city is now a prison.

Behind a padlocked gate sit 10 men, accused by the rebels who have taken over the city of theft, thuggery and spying for the regime of President Bashar Assad.

The head guard says all prisoners get three meals a day and one shower. All will be tried by the town's new legal council, and no one is mistreated, he says.

One alleged crook, however, has two black eyes.

"I flipped my motorcycle," he said, speaking within earshot of his captors.

An accused regime informer has a bruised face and red stripes on his arm, as if he's been lashed with a cord.

"I fell down," he said.

The Al-Bab prison is one of the many lockups rebels fighting against Assad's regime have set up after seizing areas from government forces.

These facilities report to no national or regional authority, causing concern among rights groups and leading to a wide range of practices.

One badly bruised captive told Human Rights Watch he'd been blindfolded and beaten daily for three weeks. Elsewhere, reporters from The Associated Press saw former regime soldiers frolicking in a swimming pool with their captors.

It is impossible to determine the number of rebel detention centers, but interviews with rebel commanders, activists, captives and human rights researches in north Syria—plus visits to three facilities—provide a window into the issue.

Little evidence has surfaced that rebels are practicing the widespread, institutionalized torture that human rights groups accuse Assad's regime of. But many prisoners bear bruises and scars from beatings and lashings.

A number of rebel groups acknowledge sending prisoners believed to have blood on their hands to the firing squad. Others realize the living are worth more than the dead and seek "blood money" from captives' families or try to exchange them for rebels held by the regime.

The captors also vary. Running north Syria's largest known rebel prison, in the town of Marea, is a barrel-shaped former truck driver nicknamed "Jumbo" who has a bullet lodged in his head from a gunfight with government troops. Others are run by civilian councils of lawyers, teachers and Muslim clerics who administer a mix of Syrian and Islamic law.

Refinery blast kills 39 in Venezuela, dozens hurt

PUNTO FIJO, Venezuela (AP)—A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery and unleashed a ferocious fire on Saturday, killing at least 39 people and injuring more than 80 others in one of the deadliest disasters ever to hit the country's key oil industry. Balls of fire rose over the Amuay refinery, among the largest in the world, in video posted on the Internet by people who were nearby at the time. Government officials pledged to restart the refinery within two days and said the country has plenty of fuel supplies on hand to meet domestic needs as well as its export commitments.

The explosion shattered walls of nearby shops, ripped out windows from homes and left the surrounding streets covered with rubble and twisted scraps of metal.

President Hugo Chavez declared three days of mourning and ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. "This affects all of us," Chavez said by phone on state television. "It's very sad, very painful."

Vice President Elias Jaua, who traveled to the area in western Venezuela, said on state television late Saturday that at least 39 people were killed by the explosion, up from the earlier death toll of 26. He said that the dead included 18 National Guard troops and that six of the bodies had not yet been identified. Other officials said earlier that the dead included a 10-year-old boy.

In a neighborhood next to the refinery, shopkeeper Yolimar Romero said she was at her computer when a shock wave swept over the area shortly after 1 a.m.

"At that instant, the whole house shook as if it were an earthquake," she said. "The windows went flying off with their frames and everything."

Electricity was knocked out, leaving Romero in the dark and her house filled with smoke. She found a flashlight and started looking for her husband and three children.

Focus

Neil Armstrong, 1st man on the moon, dies at 82

CINCINNATI (AP)—Neil Armstrong was a soft-spoken engineer who became a global hero when as a steely-nerved pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with a small step onto the moon. The modest man, who had people on Earth entranced and awed from almost a quarter-million miles away, but credited others for the feat, died Saturday. He was 82.

Armstrong died following complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures, his family said in a statement. Armstrong had had a bypass operation this month, according to NASA. His family didn't say where he died; he had lived in suburban Cincinnati.

Armstrong commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon July 20, 1969, capping the most daring of the 20th century's scientific expeditions. His first words after becoming the first person to set foot on the surface are etched in history books and the memories of those who heard them in a live broadcast.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said.

(Armstrong insisted later that he had said "a" before man, but said he, too, couldn't hear it in the version that went to the world.)

In those first few moments on the moon, during the climax of a heated space race with the Soviet Union, Armstrong stopped in what he called "a tender moment" and left a patch to commemorate NASA astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts who had died in action.

"It was special and memorable but it was only instantaneous because there was work to do," Armstrong told an Australian television interviewer this year.

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spent nearly three hours walking on the lunar surface, collecting samples, conducting experiments and taking photographs.

"The sights were simply magnificent, beyond any visual experience that I had ever been exposed to," Armstrong once said.

The moonwalk marked America's victory in the Cold War space race that began Oct. 4, 1957, with the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1, a 184-pound satellite that sent shock waves around the world.

Although he had been a Navy fighter pilot, a test pilot for NASA's forerunner and an astronaut, Armstrong never allowed himself to be caught up in the celebrity and glamour of the space program.

"I am, and ever will be, a white socks, pocket protector, nerdy engineer," he said in 2000 in one of his rare public appearances. "And I take a substantial amount of pride in the accomplishments of my profession."

Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley, who interviewed Armstrong for oral histories for NASA, said Armstrong fit every requirement the space agency needed for the first man to walk on moon, especially because of his engineering skills and the way he handled celebrity by shunning it

"I think his genius was in his reclusiveness," said Brinkley. "He was the ultimate hero in an era of corruptible men." Fellow Ohioan and astronaut John Glenn, one of Armstrong's closest friends, recalled Saturday how Armstrong was down to the last 15 seconds to 35 seconds of fuel when he finally brought the lunar module Eagle down on the Sea of Tranquility.

AP

This undated file photo provided by NASA shows Neil Armstrong. The family of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, says he died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, at age 82.

"That showed a dedication to what he was doing that was admirable," Glenn said.

A man who kept away from cameras, Armstrong went public in 2010 with his concerns about President Barack Obama's space policy that shifted attention away from a return to the moon and emphasized private companies developing spaceships. He testified before Congress, and in an email to The Associated Press, Armstrong said he had "substantial reservations," and along with more than two dozen Apollo-era veterans, he signed a letter calling the plan a "misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future."

Armstrong was among the greatest of American heroes, Obama said in a statement.

"When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation. They set out to show the world that the American spirit can see beyond what seems unimaginable—that with enough drive and ingenuity, anything is possible," Obama said.

Obama's Republican opponent Mitt Romney echoed those sentiments, calling Armstrong an American hero whose passion for space, science and discovery will inspire him for the rest of his life.

"With courage unmeasured and unbounded love for his country, he walked where man had never walked before. The moon will miss its first son of earth," Romney said.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden recalled Armstrong's grace and humility.

"As long as there are history books, Neil Armstrong will be included in them, remembered for taking humankind's first small step on a world beyond our own," Bolden said in a statement.

Armstrong's modesty and self-effacing manner never faded.

When he appeared in Dayton in 2003 to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of powered flight, he bounded onto a stage before 10,000 people packed into a baseball stadium. But he spoke for only a few seconds, did not mention the moon, and quickly ducked out of the spotlight

He later joined Glenn, by then a senator, to lay wreaths on the graves of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Glenn introduced Armstrong and noted it was 34 years to the day that Armstrong had walked on the moon. "Thank you, John. Thirty-four years?" Armstrong quipped, as if he hadn't given it a thought.

At another joint appearance, the two embraced and Glenn commented: "To this day, he's the one person on earth I'm truly, truly envious of."

Armstrong's moonwalk capped a series of accomplishments that included piloting the X-15 rocket plane and making the first space docking during the Gemini 8 mission, which included a successful emergency splashdown.

In the years afterward, Armstrong retreated to the quiet of the classroom and his southwestern Ohio farm. Aldrin said in his book "Men from Earth" that Armstrong was one of the quietest, most private men he had ever met.

In the Australian interview, Armstrong acknowledged that "now and then I miss the excitement about being in the cockpit of an airplane and doing new things."

At the time of the flight's 40th anniversary, Armstrong again was low-key, telling a gathering that the space race was "the ultimate peaceful competition: USA versus U.S.S.R. It did allow both sides to take the high road with the objectives of science and learning and exploration."

Glenn, who went through jungle training in Panama with Armstrong as part of the astronaut program, described him as "exceptionally brilliant" with technical matters but "rather retiring, doesn't like to be thrust into the limelight much."

Derek Elliott, curator of the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. Air and Space Museum from 1982 to 1992, said the moonwalk probably marked the high point of space exploration.

The manned lunar landing was a boon to the prestige of the United States, which had been locked in a space race with the former Soviet Union, and re-established U.S. preeminence in science and technology, Elliott said.

"The fact that we were able to see it and be a part of it means that we are in our own way witnesses to history," he said.

The 1969 landing met an audacious deadline that President John F. Kennedy had set in May 1961, shortly after Alan Shepard became the first Ameri-

See ARMSTRONG on Next Page

NASA's pioneering astronauts: Where are they now?

As space exploration has become more common and the number of astronauts has risen past 300, many names have faded into the background. But some will forever be associated with the golden age of space exploration. Some examples:

From 1969's Apollo 11, the first manned moon landing mission:

■ **Buzz Aldrin:** Lunar module pilot for Apollo 11. Second man on the moon after commander Neil Armstrong. Left NASA in in 1971 and returned to Air Force. Wrote several books including "Return to Earth" and "Men from Earth." Advocate for future U.S. space exploration and frequent lecturer. Age: 82.

■ **Neil Armstrong:** Commander of Apollo 11 mission and first human to set foot on the moon. Left NASA in 1971, taught engineering at the University of Cincinnati, and later became chairman of electronic systems companies. Died Aug. 25 at age 82.

■ **Michael Collins:** Command module pilot on Apollo 11 and circled the moon while colleagues Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed. Left NASA in 1970 and became first director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. Wrote "Carrying the Fire," considered one of the best insider space books. Age: 81.

Some other notable astronauts:

■ **Scott Carpenter:** Second American to orbit the Earth in 1962. With John Glenn, surviving member of NASA's original Mercury 7 astronauts. Gave the famous send off—"Godspeed, John Glenn." Involved in Navy's SeaLab program, and spent 30 days under the ocean in 1965. Left the Navy in 1969. Age: 87.

■ **Eugene Cernan:** Commander of Apollo 17 in 1972; last astronaut to walk on the moon. Second person to walk in space in 1966 as a pilot on Gemini 9. Retired from the Navy in 1976 and later started an aerospace consulting company in Houston. Age: 78

■ **John Glenn:** First American to orbit the Earth in 1962, circling three times in five hours. Left NASA in 1965 and retired from the Marine Corps the next year. Became a Democratic U.S. senator from Ohio and ran briefly for president in 1984. Return to space in 1998 for a nine-day mission aboard space shuttle Discovery, becoming at age 77 the oldest person in space. Turned 91 in July.

■ **Jim Lovell:** Commander of Apollo 13 in 1970, his fourth space flight. Oxygen tank in the spaceship exploded and the moon mission was aborted. Left NASA in 1973 and became a business executive. Age: 84.

■ **Edgar Mitchell:** The sixth man to walk on the moon in 1971 after maneuvering the landing module from Apollo 14. Made two excursions to collect lunar samples with Alan Shepard. Left NASA in 1972 and went on to become an educator, lecturer and consultant. Age: 81.

■ **Alan Shepard:** First American in space; made a 15-minute suborbital flight in 1961. Returned to space as commander of Apollo 14 in 1971; used a lunar sample scoop with an attached golf-club head to hit a ball on the moon. Retired from NASA in 1974 and went into private business in Houston. Died in 1998 at age 74.

■ **Jack Swigert Jr.:** Pilot for Apollo 13 in 1970, a last-minute replacement after another astronaut came down with the measles. Mission to moon was aborted after an oxygen tank on the spaceship exploded. Left NASA in 1977. Elected to Congress in November 1982; died of bone cancer the next month at age 51.

■ **John Young:** First person to fly into space from Earth six times—seven times counting his lunar liftoff in 1972. Flew two Gemini and two Apollo missions. Commander of the first space shuttle flight, aboard Columbia in 1981. Final space flight in 1983 aboard Columbia. Retired from NASA in 2004. Age: 81.

Health & Fitness

New AIDS-like disease in Asians, not contagious

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Researchers have identified a mysterious new disease that has left scores of people in Asia and some in the United States with AIDS-like symptoms even though they are not infected with HIV.

The patients' immune systems become damaged, leaving them unable to fend off germs as healthy people do. What triggers this isn't known, but the disease does not seem to be contagious.

This is another kind of acquired immune deficiency that is not inherited and occurs in adults, but doesn't spread the way AIDS does through a virus, said Dr. Sarah Browne, a scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

She helped lead the study with researchers in Thailand and Taiwan where most of the cases have been found since 2004. Their report is in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"This is absolutely fascinating. I've seen probably at least three patients in the last 10 years or so" who might have had this, said Dr. Dennis Maki, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

It's still possible that an infection of some sort could trigger the disease, even though the disease itself doesn't seem to spread person-to-person, he said.

The disease develops around age 50 on average but does not run in families, which makes it unlikely that a single gene is responsible, Browne said. Some patients have died of overwhelming infections, including some Asians now living in the U.S., although Browne could not estimate how many.

Kim Nguyen, 62, a seamstress from Vietnam who has lived in Tennessee since 1975, was gravely ill when she sought help for a persistent fever, infections throughout her bones and other bizarre symptoms in 2009. She had been sick off and on for several years and had visited Vietnam in 1995 and again in early 2009.

"She was wasting away from this systemic infection" that at first seemed like tuberculosis but wasn't, said Dr. Carlton Hays Jr., a family physician at the Jackson Clinic in Jackson, Tenn. "She's a small woman to begin with, but when I first saw her, her weight was 91 pounds, and she lost down to 69 pounds."

AP

Dr. Sarah K. Browne,right, talks with patient Kim Nguyen at National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md., Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012. Researchers have identified a mysterious new disease that has left scores of people in Asia and some in the United States with AIDS-like symptoms even though they are not infected with HIV.

Nguyen (pronounced "when") was referred to specialists at the National Institutes of Health who had been tracking similar cases. She spent nearly a year at an NIH hospital in Bethesda, Md., and is there now for monitoring and further treatment.

"I feel great now," she said Wednesday. But when she was sick, "I felt dizzy, headaches, almost fell down," she said. "I could not eat anything."

AIDS is a specific disease, and it stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. That means the immune system becomes impaired during someone's lifetime, rather than from inherited gene defects like the "bubble babies" who are born unable to fight off germs.

The virus that causes AIDS—HIV—destroys T-cells, key soldiers of the immune system that fight germs. The new disease doesn't affect those cells, but causes a different kind of damage. Browne's study of more than 200 people in Taiwan and Thailand found that most of those with the disease make substances called autoantibodies that block interferon-gamma, a chemical signal that helps the body clear infections.

Blocking that signal leaves people like those with AIDS—vulnerable to viruses, fungal infections and parasites, but especially micobacteria, a group of germs similar to tuberculosis that can cause severe lung damage. Researchers are calling this new disease an "adult-onset" immunodeficiency syndrome because it develops later in life and they don't know why or how.

"Fundamentally, we do not know what's causing them to make these antibodies," Browne said.

Antibiotics aren't always effective, so doctors have tried a variety of other approaches, including a cancer drug that helps suppress production of antibodies. The disease quiets in some patients once the infections are tamed, but the faulty immune system is likely a chronic condition, researchers believe.

The fact that nearly all the patients so far have been Asian or Asian-born people living elsewhere suggests that genetic factors and something in the environment such as an infection may trigger the disease, researchers conclude.

The first cases turned up in 2004 and Browne's study enrolled about 100 people in six months.

"We know there are many others out there," including many cases mistaken as tuberculosis in some countries, she said.

ARMSTRONG

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can in space with a 15-minute suborbital flight. (Soviet cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin had orbited the Earth and beaten the U.S. into space the previous month.)

"I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth," Kennedy had said. "No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important to the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

The end-of-decade goal was met with more than five months to spare. "Houston: Tranquility Base here," Armstrong radioed after the spacecraft settled onto the moon. "The Eagle has landed."

"Roger, Tranquility," Apollo astronaut Charles Duke radioed back from Mission Control. "We copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot."

The third astronaut on the mission, Michael Collins, circled the moon in the mother ship Columbia 60 miles overhead while Armstrong and Aldrin went to the moon's surface.

"He was the best, and I will miss him terribly," Collins said through NASA.

In all, 12 American astronauts walked on the moon from 1969 to the last moon mission in 1972.

For Americans, reaching the moon provided uplift and respite from the Vietnam War, from strife in the Middle East, from the startling news just a few days earlier that a young woman had drowned in a car driven off a wooden bridge on Chappaquiddick Island by Sen. Edward Kennedy. The landing occurred as organizers were gearing up for Woodstock, the legendary three-day rock festival on a farm in the Catskills of New York.

Armstrong was born Aug. 5, 1930, on a farm near Wapakoneta in western Ohio. He took his first airplane ride at age 6 and developed a fascination with aviation that prompted him to build model airplanes and conduct experiments in a homemade wind tunnel.

As a boy, he worked at a pharmacy and took flying lessons. He was licensed to fly at 16, before he got his driver's license.

Armstrong enrolled in Purdue University to study aeronautical engineering but was called to duty with the U.S. Navy in 1949 and flew 78 combat missions in Korea.

After the war, Armstrong finished his degree from Purdue and later earned a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. He became a test pilot with what evolved into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, flying more than 200 kinds of aircraft from gliders to jets.

Armstrong was accepted into NASA's second astronaut class in 1962—the first, including Glenn, was chosen in 1959—and commanded the Gemini 8 mission in 1966. After the first space docking, he brought the capsule back in an emergency landing in the Pacific Ocean when a wildly firing thruster kicked it out of orbit.

Armstrong was backup commander for the historic Apollo 8 mission at Christmastime in 1968. In that flight, Commander Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders circled the moon 10 times, paving the way for the lunar landing seven months later.

Aldrin said he and Armstrong were not prone to free exchanges of sentiment.

"But there was that moment on the moon, a brief moment, in which we sort of looked at each other and slapped each other on the shoulder ... and said, `We made it. Good show,' or something like that," Aldrin said.

An estimated 600 million people—a fifth of the world's population—watched and listened to the landing, the largest audience for any single event in history.

Parents huddled with their children in front of the family television, mesmerized by what they were witnessing. Farmers abandoned their nightly milking duties, and motorists pulled off the highway and checked into motels just to see the moonwalk.

Television-less campers in California ran to their cars to catch the word on the radio. Boy Scouts at a camp in Michigan watched on a generator-powered television supplied by a parent.

Afterward, people walked out of their homes and gazed at the moon, in awe of what they had just seen. Others peeked through telescopes in hopes of spotting the astronauts.

In Wapakoneta, media and souvenir frenzy was swirling around the home of Armstrong's parents.

"You couldn't see the house for the news media," recalled John Zwez, former manager of the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum. "People were pulling grass out of their front yard."

Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins were given ticker tape parades in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and later made a 22-nation world tour. A homecoming in Wapakoneta drew 50,000 people to the city of 9,000.

In 1970, Armstrong was appointed deputy associate administrator for aeronautics at NASA but left the following year to teach aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

He remained there until 1979 and during that time bought a 310-acre farm near Lebanon, where he raised cattle and corn. He stayed out of public view, accepting few requests for interviews or speeches.

"He didn't give interviews, but he wasn't a strange person or hard to talk to," said Ron Huston, a colleague at the University of Cincinnati. "He just didn't like being a novelty."

Those who knew him said he enjoyed golfing with friends, was active in the local YMCA and frequently ate lunch at the same restaurant in Lebanon.

In 2000, when he agreed to announce the top 20 engineering achievements of the 20th century as voted by the National Academy of Engineering, Armstrong said there was one disappointment relating to his moonwalk.

"I can honestly say—and it's a big surprise to me—that I have never had a dream about being on the moon," he said.

From 1982 to 1992, Armstrong was chairman of Charlottesville, Va.-based Computing Technologies for Aviation Inc., a company that supplies computer information management systems for business aircraft.

He then became chairman of AIL Systems Inc., an electronic systems company in Deer Park, N.Y.

Armstrong married Carol Knight in 1999, and the couple lived in Indian Hill, a Cincinnati suburb. He had two adult sons from a previous marriage.

Armstrong's is the second death in a month of one of NASA's most visible, history-making astronauts. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, died of pancreatic cancer on July 23 at age 61.

Just prior to the 50th anniversary of Glenn's orbital flight this past February, Armstrong offered high praise to the elder astronaut and said that Glenn had told him many times how he wished he, too, had flown to the moon on Apollo 11. Glenn said it was his only regret.

Noted Armstrong in an email: "I am hoping I will be `in his shoes' and have as much success in longevity as he has demonstrated." Glenn is 91.

At the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles on Saturday, visitors held a minute of silence for Armstrong.

For anyone else who wanted to remember him, his family's statement made a simple request:

"Honor his example of service, accomplishment and modesty, and the next time you walk outside on a clear night and see the moon smiling down at you, think of Neil Armstrong and give him a wink."

Life & Style

Celeb presence will be smaller this year for Dems

In this June 13, 2012 file photo, actress Eva Longoria waves to the fans during the 2012 Monte Carlo Television Festival in Monaco.

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four years ago, Ben Affleck was a familiar presence around the Democratic convention, packing produce for charity and even winning a poker tournament. Singer Fergie performed with her Black Eyed Peas. Sheryl Crow sang, too, with Susan Sarandon joining in from the audience.

But none of these celebrities are planning a similar trip to Charlotte this year, and that's likely true for a number of other A-listers who were in Denver as well. In terms of star wattage, this gathering will be decidedly less sparkly.

Some reasons are obvious. A re-election bid is hardly as exciting as the historic anointment of the first black nominee, on his way to becoming the first black president. And Barack Obama is no longer a rising star: He's, well, an incumbent.

Also different is the general tone of this year's campaign—not so full of lofty thoughts about hope and change, but focused on evoking doubts about Mitt Romney. Romney is trying to do the same with Obama. "This is a campaign based on raising questions about the other candidate," says Democratic consultant Chris Lehane. "It's a whole different narrative this time."

There's also the possibility that some Hollywood celebrities have lost a measure of their enthusiasm for the candidate they warmly embraced four years ago. The most public of these has been actor Matt Damon, who as recently as last month repeated his disappointment with the president—while adding that he was still the "clear choice."

At the same time, there's a sense that the struggling economy, the central preoccupation of most voters, has cast a pall over the celebratory nature of the conventions—and that both campaigns need to be wary of too much partying, with or without celebrities. "Both the Democrats and the Republicans are cognizant of not looking decadent when the rest of the country is hurting," says Lehane.

Still, it can't be denied that parties—and if they involve celebrities, as the best ones do, so much the better—are an essential part of conventions. "They're a natural part of the process," says Michael Steele, the former RNC chairman. "I don't think anyone expects the conventioneers to show up in sackcloth. Parties celebrate the grueling process that has gotten us this far. They celebrate the nominee. And they fire up the troops."

He adds, though, that he expects the parties to be tasteful—"not in-your-face, not ostentatious."

The Democrats in particular have made a point of saying that this convention has a different mood. They're spending significantly less than four years ago, they say, and they point out that they've limited corporate and special interest money. They also say their parties will have a more public feel.

"Instead of the exclusive, closed-door, party-insider-only events of the past, we're opening and closing the convention with public events that will allow more people than ever before to participate," says Democratic National Convention Committee spokeswoman Joanne Peters.

As for the Republicans, "I don't see any scaling back," says James Davis, communications director for the Republican National Convention in Tampa. "We've got Republicans coming from across the country, some 70-plus venues being booked for events. This is going to be really big for us. I think it shows the excitement of where our party is right now."

As usual, there will be high-profile entertainment at both conventions. The RNC announced Friday that the Mississippi band 3 Doors Down, Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Oak Ridge Boys would be among the official entertainers in Tampa. The Democrats announced that folk icon James Taylor would perform on the final night in Charlotte, before Obama accepts the nomination.

On the sidelines, the arts advocacy group Creative Coalition will present the band Journey in Tampa—cue the perfect campaign song, "Don't Stop Believin'"—and the B-52s in Charlotte (cue "Love Shack"?) Given the state of the economy, "I was concerned," says the coalition's CEO, Robin Bronk, of the high-profile fundraisers. "But happily we are almost sold out already. This is a celebration of the arts in America."

And the Recording Industry Association of America is presenting, along with the Auto Alliance of America and others, pop star Gavin DeGraw in Tampa and the rapper Common in Charlotte. Both shows, which will seat some 2,000 people each, benefit the charity Musicians on Call.

"We're feeling what everyone has been feeling," says Cara Duckworth, spokeswoman for the RIAA, of the economic concerns. "But this is about celebrating music. We expect to sell out."

In a way, the relative lack of high-wattage celebrity guests this year may benefit the Democrats. In 2008, the John McCain campaign tried to use Obama's considerable celebrity appeal against him, most memorably with an ad likening him to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton: i.e. all splash and no substance. Earlier this year, the pro-GOP super PAC American Crossroads put out an ad asking: "After 4 years of a celebrity president is your life any better?"

Obama's campaign did try to downplay celebrity presence in Denver, keeping it on the sidelines. But still, luminaries of the entertainment world—from Spike Lee to Anne Hathaway to Obama's biggest booster, Oprah Winfrey—were there in droves.

The AP called representatives of a number of celebrities who were in Denver to ask if they were coming this year. Of those who responded, all said no, except for Jessica Alba: The actress will be headlining a final-night party with her husband, Cash Warren, featuring performances by Pitbull and Scissor Sisters.

Also, Eva Longoria, a co-chair of Obama's campaign, will be speaking at the convention.

Traditionally there have been fewer celebrities at Republican conventions. Two past attendees are skipping Tampa, though, according to their representatives: former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, now back in show business, and actor Robert Downey Jr., who was at the last GOP convention, but also attended an Obama fundraiser in May at George Clooney's home.

Speaking of Clooney, many powerful Hollywood boosters of Obama simply prefer to stay away from conventions but maintain their strong support nonetheless. Like Clooney, Sarah Jessica Parker and movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, all of whom have hosted major fundraisers recently, some obviously feel they can be of greater use in other ways than hanging out in Charlotte.

And the most important thing is what happens after the convention, says Steele, who notes he worked hard when he was RNC chairman to create relationships with celebrities.

"Of course, the real goal is to have these stars then go out on the road for you in the fall," Steele says.

Jerry Nelson, Count of 'Sesame Street,' dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Nelson, the puppeteer behind a delightful menagerie of characters including Count von Count on "Sesame Street" and Gobo Fraggle on "Fraggle Rock," has died. He was 78.

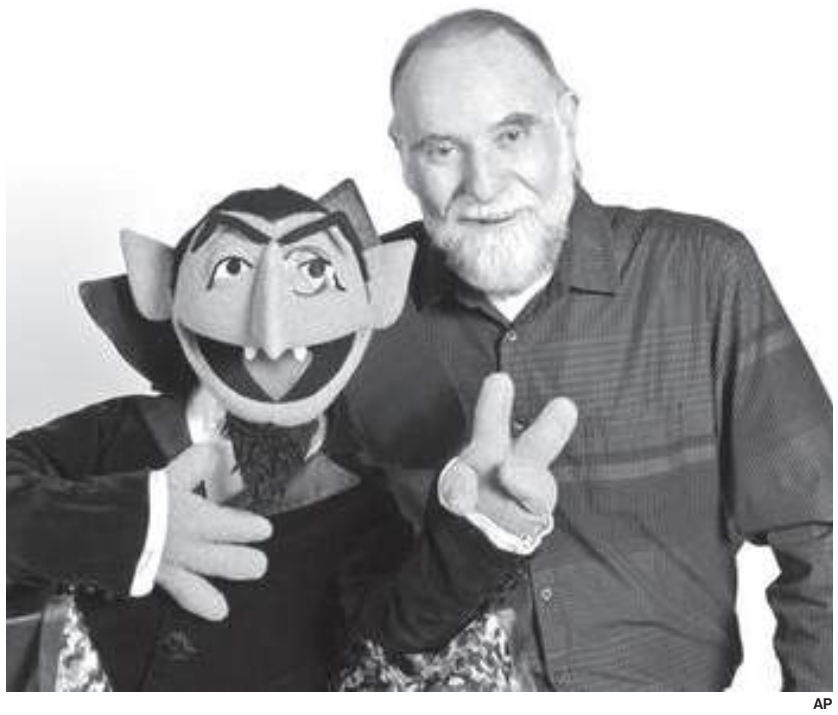
Nelson, who suffered from emphysema, died Thursday night in his Massachusetts home on Cape Cod, the Sesame Workshop said Friday.

"Every description of his characters describes Jerry as well," said "Sesame Street" executive producer Carol-Lynn Parente. "Silly, funny, vulnerable, passionate and musical, for sure. That voice of his was superb."

Although he'd been in declining health for some time "his attitude was never bad," Parente said Friday. "He was always so grateful for what he had in his life."

"We're having a rough day on the Street," she said.

In a tribute posted online by the nonprofit Sesame Workshop, Nelson was lauded for his artistry and the "laughter he brought to children worldwide" with the Count and other Muppet puppets including Sherlock Hemlock, Herry Monster and the Amazing Mumford.



AP

In this June 2012 publicity photo released by "Sesame Street," puppeteer Jerry Nelson is shown with "Sesame Street" character Count von Count in New York.

Nelson was part of other projects featuring Jim Henson's Muppets, including the 1984 movie "The Muppets Take Manhattan" and TV series including the 1980s "Fraggle Rock" and 1990s "Muppets Tonight"

In recent years, Nelson gave up the physically demanding job of operating the Count and other puppets on "Sesame Street" but still voiced the characters, the workshop said. The show's new season launches in September and Nelson's voice will be heard.

In 2010, he released the album "Truro Daydreams," the title that referred to the Massachusetts town.

Survivors include Nelson's wife, Jan, Parente said. Funeral plans were not immediately available.

Singer-songwriter Steve Earle has deal for 2 books

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve Earle likes the literary life.

The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter, and published author, has a two-book deal with Twelve, the publisher announced Friday. Earle will write a memoir, scheduled for 2014, and a novel set in the 19th century about an escaped slave. A previous Earle novel, "I'll Never Get Out Here Alive," came out last year.

According to Twelve, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Earle's memoir will tell of his friendship with Townes Van Zandt, his drug problems and the making of the 1995 album "Train a Comin.'"

Lawyer in Bieber case fights anti-paparazzi law

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A paparazzo charged with recklessly pursuing Justin Bieber for photos will challenge the constitutionality of the law targeting aggressive celebrity-hounding tactics, his attorney said Friday.

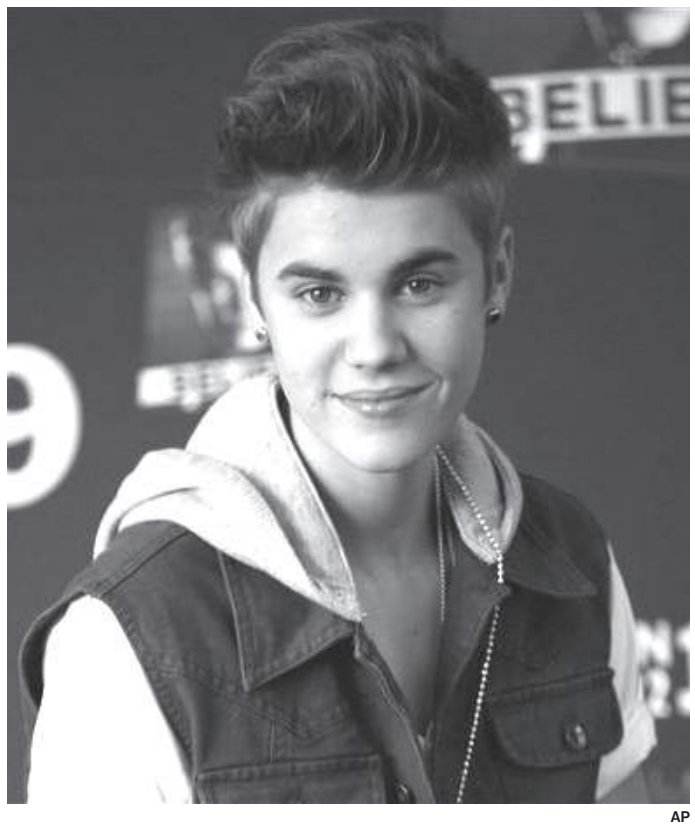
Attorney David S. Kestenbaum filed a motion asking a judge to declare that the 2010 California statute penalizing those who drive recklessly in pursuit of commercial photos is unconstitutional.

The 17-page motion argues the law used to charge his client, Paul Raef, violates First Amendment protections for the press and is too broad.

Kestenbaum filed the motion during a brief hearing that neither Raef nor Bieber attended. The photographer was charged last month with four misdemeanor counts after a July 6 high-speed pursuit on a Los Angeles freeway involving the pop singer and other paparazzi.

Raef is the first person charged under the law.

The motion does not address the specifics of the incident, but rather challenges the law on constitutional grounds. It contends the law is vague because state vehicle codes do not adequately define what would be a photo taken for commercial purposes.



AP

In this June 11, 2012 file photo, pop star Justin Bieber poses for photos prior to a press conference at a hotel in Mexico City.

"First and foremost, the statute unconstitutionally singles out the press for a special penalty," the motion states.

A judge will hear the motion during a hearing on Sept. 24. Raef has not yet entered a plea in the case.

Raef, 30, was not arrested during the chase. However, his license plate was reported to police, who investigated and presented the case to city prosecutors. They charged Raef on July 25, but when the photographer appeared for booking, Kestenbaum said police were unaware of the new law and he was not processed.

Kestenbaum said he expects the case will likely end up in an appeals court, regardless of any ruling by a criminal court judge.

Raef has also been charged with more traditional reckless driving and for following other cars too closely.

Prosecutors allege he chased Bieber at more than 80 mph and forced other motorists to avoid collisions while Raef tried to get shots of the teen heartthrob.

R&B singer Usher wins primary custody of sons

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher on Friday was awarded primary physical custody of his two sons, ending a long legal fight with his ex-wife.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane ruled that the singer, 33, will have primary custody of 4-year-old Usher Raymond V and 3-year-old Naviyd Ely Raymond, according to Cherrise Boone, spokeswoman for the court clerk's office. His custody will start Sept. 1.

Boone said Usher and his ex-wife Tameka Foster Raymond will have joint legal custody. The type of visitation hasn't been determined yet for Tameka Raymond.

Usher's lawyer, Ivory Brown, did not immediately return a call on Friday. Lisa West, a lawyer for Tameka Raymond, did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

AP

In this May 22, 2012 file photo, hip-hop artist Usher Raymond takes the witness stand in court in a legal battle with his ex-wife in a custody fight involving their two sons, in Atlanta.

Usher, whose real name is Usher Raymond IV, married Tameka Raymond in 2007. They divorced two years later. He said the couple had been separated since July 2008 and claimed there was "no reasonable hope of reconciliation" and the marriage was "irretrievably broken."

In May, Usher testified that Tameka Raymond spit at and tried to fight with his girlfriend during one visit and that his ex-wife hit him during the dispute. He said he didn't press charges because: "I didn't want the boys to know that their father put their mother in jail," he said.

Tameka Raymond's attorney claimed that Usher provoked her client and that his account is exaggerated.

The custody decision comes after Tameka Raymond's 11-year-old son Kile Glover died last month after he was critically injured in a boating accident. The boy was run over July 6 by a personal watercraft on Lake Lanier, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Lake Lanier is about 40 miles northeast of Atlanta.

Alleged LL Cool J intruder has criminal record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man charged with breaking into LL Cool J's house earlier this week has a lengthy criminal record that includes a manslaughter conviction in Texas, court records show.

Authorities say the actor-rapper subdued Jonathan A. Kirby early Wednesday after finding the man in his Los Angeles home, breaking Kirby's nose, jaw and ribs in the process.

Kirby, 58, has a lengthy arrest and criminal history in LA, but also was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in Dallas in 1988.

Records show Kirby was sentenced to six years of imprisonment, but was paroled the following year. By January 1990 he had been arrested on a prostitution-related charge in West Hollywood, and in 1995 was convicted of felony residential burglary. He is charged with the same offense in the LL Cool J incident and could face 38 years to life in prison if convicted.

AP

This May 16, 2012 file photo shows "NCIS: Los Angeles" cast member LL COOL J at the CBS network upfront presentation at The Tent at Lincoln Center in New York.

No additional details about the circumstances of the Texas manslaughter conviction were available Friday.

Prosecutors want Kirby, a transient who has used different names and dates of birth over the years, treated as a third-strike offender.

Authorities say LL Cool J, whose real name is James Todd Smith, and his family were unharmed during the break-in, and nothing was apparently taken from their home.

Kirby has yet to make a court appearance and had to be hospitalized because of his injuries.

Coroner: Scott's notes didn't say reason for death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County coroner's officials say notes left behind by "Top Gun" director Tony Scott did not give a motive why he would kill himself.

Coroner's office spokesman Ed Winter also said Friday the notes didn't mention any health issues.

The 68-year-old Scott died Sunday after leaping from the Vincent Thomas Bridge into Los Angeles Harbor. An autopsy was performed on the British-born director's body Monday, but it will be a month or more before an official cause of death is determined.

Coroner's officials are treating Scott's death as a probable suicide.

Winter says one of the notes left in his car was a list of emergency contact numbers and another included messages to friends and loved ones.

Hardworking woman tires of man's tightwad ways

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Larry" for a little over a year. During this time he has been in and out of work. Anytime we go anywhere or do anything, he never offers to pay. Even if he has money in his pocket, he'll look the other way when a check arrives. Other times, he insists on "Dutch treat."

Larry says we were raised differently. I say he's cheap. When the holidays come around, I never receive a gift or a card. I am a hardworking woman who is currently holding down two full-time jobs. I don't see why Larry feels he is entitled.

Am I out of line for thinking a man should "treat" a woman? I just don't think Larry is morally correct.

PAYING DEARLY IN NAPLES, FLA.

DEAR PAYING DEARLY: I agree that you and Larry were raised differently. I also agree that he's cheap. However, the idea that a man should ALWAYS treat a woman is outdated.

You signed yourself "Paying Dearly." The question is, are you getting what you're paying for—and is it enough for you? If the answer is no, then scratch Larry.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were sorting through some old things of mine and came across a wallet containing some pictures of my old high school girlfriend. Normally, I wouldn't think twice about tossing them, but in this case, she was someone I had stayed very close with (platonically) until her untimely death several years ago.

What is the protocol for throwing away things like this, when it's someone you were close to who is now deceased? I'm sure her parents wouldn't want them.

It feels disrespectful to toss them in the trash, but at the same time I don't really feel I need to keep them. My wife doesn't care either way if I keep them or not.

TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP

DEAR TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP: Offer the pictures to your former girlfriend's family because they might surprise you and consider them treasures. However, if they're not interested and you can't bring yourself to put them in the trash, put them in the box in which you found them and let your family deal with them after you're gone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 10 years, together for 15. When we met, he was in a band and we did a lot of socializing, drinking, partying, etc.

Over the years and two children later, I enjoy these activities less as the demands of parenting and full-time careers take top priority. My husband frequently makes the comment, "You USED to be fun." I find it incredibly hurtful and have told him so, but he continues to repeat it. Sometimes I'm tempted to lash out and say, "Then go find yourself someone who is!" Is there any other way I can address this?

"PARTY-POOPER" IN NEW YORK

DEAR "PARTY-POOPER": Yes. The next time your husband says, "You used to be fun," rather than become defensive, ask him to explain what he means. What EXACTLY does he miss? The freedom? Not having the responsibilities of a full-time career and two children? The drinking?

If he misses the carefree woman you used to be, find a sitter and schedule some regular adult time together. If it's something more than that, you may need a marriage counselor.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

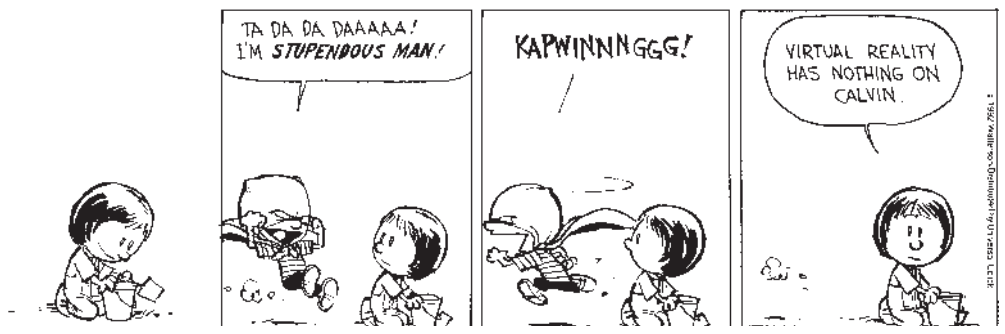
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

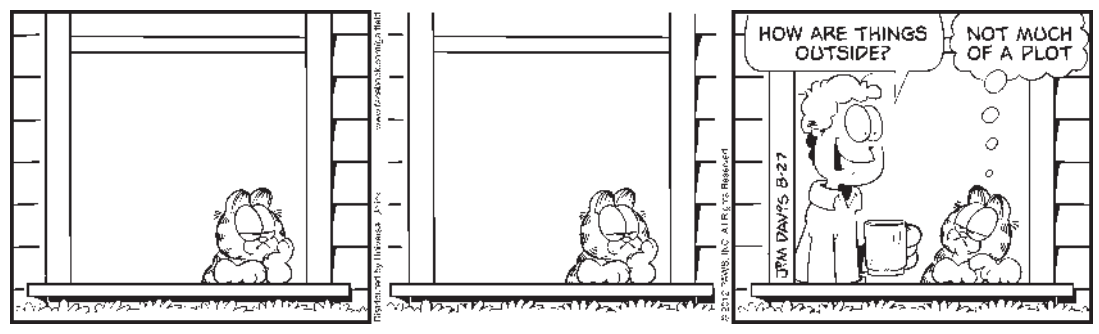
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



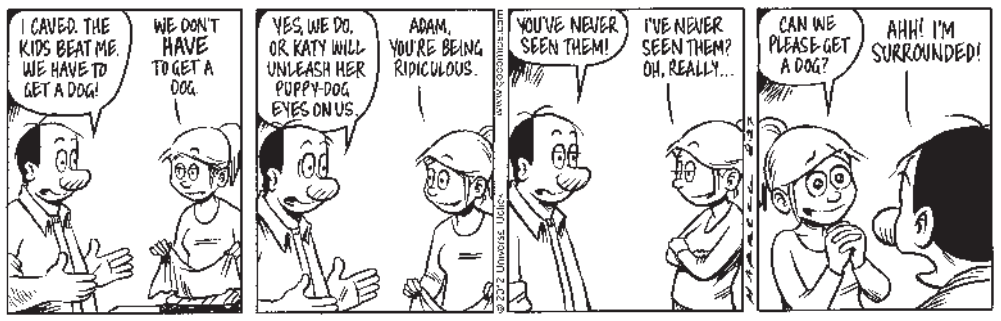
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



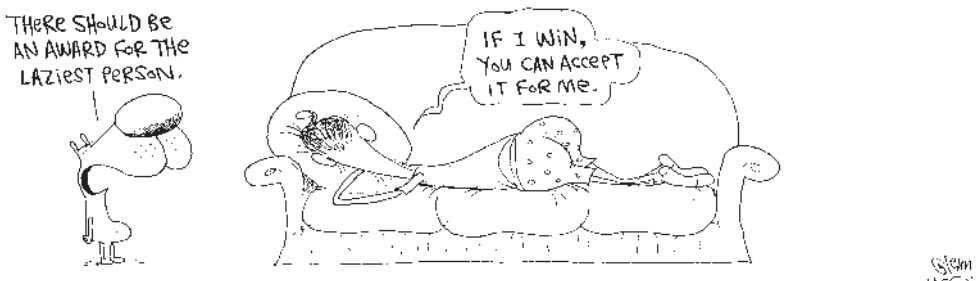
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAVED. THE KIDS BEAT ME. WE HAVE TO GET A DOG!
WE DON'T HAVE TO GET A DOG.
YES, WE DO. OR, KATY WILL UNLEASH HER PUPPY-DOG EYES ON US.
ADAM, YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS.
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THEM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM? OH, REALLY...
CAN WE PLEASE GET A DOG?
AHH! I'M SURROUNDED!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Grand tale
5 Slight application
8 Big party
12 Netlike structures
14 Desertlike
15 Accelerator
16 Start a garden
17 That man's
18 Bob and Jakob of music
20 Urge on
23 "Scat, gnat!"
24 Close by
25 Baseball legend Casey
28 "Le Coq —"
29 Ritzy violin, for short
30 Do some lawn work
32 Placed a bet
34 Chinese menu staple
35 Acknowledge
36 Prove false
37 Up
40 Nonstick spray name
41 "And" or "but" (Abbr.)
42 Bergman/Boyer thriller
47 Horse's neck hair
48 "Hamlet" setting
49 Formerly, formerly
50 On pension (Abbr.)
51 Medicinal amount

DOWN
1 Work unit
2 Pellet for a certain shooter
3 "— Complicated"
4 Code
5 Clothing
6 Carte lead-in
7 Trademark for Yul or Telly
8 Fireplace fuel
9 Geometry calculation
10 Legal claim
11 Tosses in
13 Overlay with plaster, perhaps
19 "— Cassius has ..."
20 Third-party abbr.
21 Cat call?
22 Brazilian rubber area
23 Scatter about
25 More mighty
26 Old-time actor Jannings
27 Centers of activity
29 Ballesteros of golf
31 Tiny
33 Nozzle attached to a Bunsen burner
34 Jog one's memory
36 "— Ha'i"
37 Pinnacle
38 Bellow
39 Hostels
40 "Hey, you!"
43 Hearty brew
44 Stickum
45 Day fractions (Abbr.)
46 Prop for 29-Down

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	W	E	S	■	E	C	H	O	■	E	K	E
M	O	S	II	■	G	R	C	W	■	D	I	P
O	R	S	O	■	R	A	R	E	■	N	E	E
S	E	E	R	■	E	G	O	■	L	A	V	E
■	■	■	T	O	T	■	I	L	O	■	■	■
C	L	A	S	P	S	■	C	O	N	F	E	R
H	A	I	T	I	■	■	■	A	G	R	E	E
A	P	R	O	N	S	■	A	F	T	O	R	D
■	■	■	R	E	V	■	U	S	E	■	■	■
C	I	T	Y	■	E	G	G	■	L	A	C	E
A	D	O	■	A	L	O	E	■	L	I	A	R
M	O	O	■	S	T	A	R	■	O	D	D	S
E	L	K	■	P	E	T	S	■	W	E	S	T

Saturday's answer 8-27

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				13				■	14			
15								■	16			
■	■	■	17			■	18	19				
20	21	22			■	23				■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	■
28			■	29					■	30		31
■	32		33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39				■	40			■	■	■
41				■	42	43				44	45	46
47				■	48							
49				■	50			■	51			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexa Vega, 24; Aaron Paul, 34; Sarah Chalke, 36; Paul Reubens, 60.

Happy Birthday: Take greater interest in finishing what you start. Don't overload your plate to prove a point. Keep life simple and your plans well-organized, and you will reach your goals. Take time to update your image or your skills to stay current in what you have to offer others. Your numbers are 4, 10, 14, 23, 28, 33, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Expect to be criticized for delays, imperfections or any other way you may fall short. Don't promise more than you can deliver, and be prepared to do more than expected. Temptation will be your biggest enemy. Don't let love hold you back. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Confront your fears. Participate in activities that broaden your outlook or help you use experience to make gains. Travel plans should include both business and pleasure. Getting the most for the least should be your intent. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Change your surroundings, or visit someone you don't see often. You will learn more from people who have chosen a different path. Combining what you learn with what you already know and do will lead to an interesting new beginning. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take matters into your own hands. Do whatever it takes to improve any personal or financial situation you face. An interesting partnership can help pave the way to greater opportunities. Love is in the stars, and romance should be your plan. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Speak up and share your thoughts. The information you get in return will be valuable, allowing you to make changes crucial to your success. A unique or diverse approach to an old service or skill you have to offer will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Participate, but don't overdo or overspend. Stay within your means if you want to get ahead. Networking events will lead to good connections and possibilities. Show interest in what others do, but be sure to add input to the conversation. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Love will interfere with your ability to get things done properly or on time. Don't get wrapped up in emotional melodrama when you have the opportunity to gather information that will help you get ahead or help others. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't rely on others. Arguments are likely to occur. Focus on getting what needs doing behind you so you can entertain someone you love. Putting more time and effort into your personal life and creative endeavors will pay the highest rewards. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your attributes to work. Make changes at home that will lower your overhead. A moneymaking plan should be implemented into your schedule. Starting a service that benefits others as well as your cash flow should be your goal. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do your best to enhance your personal life and love relationship. It's important that everything runs smoothly at home before you venture out and make professional changes. Invest in you, your family and your future. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get angry when it's what you accomplish that counts. Get busy turning your ideas and plans into a reality. You can stabilize your home and financial life with a few simple adjustments. Let your intuition guide you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Self-evaluation may be disillusioned. Ask the opinion of others in order to come up with a realistic plan. Love is in the stars, and networking will lead to an interesting connection. Do your due diligence before making a commitment. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, dedicated and always prepared. You adapt well.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		9		1		3	
6	9						1	7
		1		2		8		
3			1		8			2
		9				3		
8			3		9			5
		7		8		9		
9	8						4	3
	1		2		7		8	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	6	9	4	2	1	5	8
8	9	5	7	3	1	2	4	6
4	1	2	8	5	6	7	3	9
3	2	7	4	9	5	8	6	1
5	6	1	2	8	7	3	9	4
9	8	4	1	6	3	5	7	2
2	5	8	6	7	4	9	1	3
6	7	9	3	1	8	4	2	5
1	4	3	5	2	9	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JUST BECAUSE DAY **Solution: 9 letters**

U	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	A	R	D	E	N	E
N	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	E	W	H	I	M
E	O	C	Y	F	I	T	A	R	G	I	F	T	A	I
X	I	M	O	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	E	F	T
P	T	E	M	N	O	S	A	E	R	I	R	U	F	S
E	O	M	N	O	V	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	E	A
C	M	O	R	J	C	E	I	B	R	E	E	H	C	P
T	E	R	E	N	O	N	N	N	S	A	P	T	T	I
E	R	I	A	N	S	Y	U	T	N	E	R	L	I	C
D	U	E	D	H	I	R	A	Y	I	O	R	E	O	N
E	S	S	A	R	E	D	T	B	P	O	V	V	N	I
Z	A	R	E	P	M	H	A	S	L	E	N	A	E	C
A	E	T	M	I	I	N	N	E	N	E	G	A	T	D
M	L	A	R	N	D	R	I	T	U	A	L	R	L	E
A	P	E	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	N	U	F

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Last Saturday's Answer: Cosmetics

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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Telephone: (670)233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BLAS RAMON T. MAFNAS and MARIA CRISTINA L. MAFNAS, Plaintiffs, vs. JULIO L. EMANGMAI and DOES I-V, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0041 E SUMMONS

TO DEFENDANT, JULIO E. EMANGMAI

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiffs' counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Assistant Installer (Alarm and Camera) Minimum salary. Email resume to Marianas Security Corporation at msc@marianassecurity.com.

Wing Corporation needs an Accountant - $5.55/hr. College Grad. w/ 5 yrs experience. Pls call 233-3341

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QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a college or university in the Engineering field with a minimum five (5) years work experience as a field engineer/supervisor. Must possess some form of experience in all maintenance fields (carpentry, plumbing, mechanical, electrical and masonry) and have the ability to assess/evaluate technical problems and recommend solutions. Must have the ability to read isometric plans and prepare progress reports on buildings. Willingness to work outdoors, if necessary, in inclement weather, and on-call seven days a week and holidays. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Knowledge in MS Word and Excel a plus. Deliver or mail resume to: Haoye Canye (Saipan) Co., Ltd.; P.O. Box 504951; Saipan, MP 96950

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Closed: September 21, 2012
FLSA Status: Exempt

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Red Sox send Gonzalez, Beckett, Crawford to Dodgers

BOSTON (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers are stocking up for the stretch run with some new, expensive players who couldn't help the Boston Red Sox make it to the postseason this year or last.

The Dodgers acquired first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, pitcher Josh Beckett and injured outfielder Carl Crawford from Boston on Saturday, hoping to boost their playoff hopes by taking on the underperforming and high-priced stars who failed to thrive in a fractious Red Sox clubhouse.

Boston also sent infielder Nick Punto and about $11 million in cash to Los Angeles in the nine-player trade that was the biggest in Dodgers history. In return, the Red Sox got first baseman James Loney, pitcher Allen Webster, infielder Ivan DeJesus Jr. and two players to be named while shedding more than $250 million in salaries through 2018.

"We understand that you have to spend money to be good in this league," said Magic Johnson, the former NBA star who is part of the rich new Dodgers ownership group that has dramatically revamped their roster in the last month.

"When we came in, we made it clear that we want to build the Dodgers back to what they once were," Dodgers president Stan Kasten said.

Gonzalez hit a three-run homer in his first at-bat for the Dodgers, while the depleted Red Sox blew a six-run lead to the Kansas City Royals and lost 10-9 in 12 innings Saturday night.

Mauro Gomez, filling in for Gonzalez at first base, had four hits, including his first major league homer. But Aaron Cook, a late substitute for Beckett, gave up three runs before recording a single out, and after Boston rallied to take a 9-3 lead the bullpen couldn't hold it.

Kansas City scored six in the seventh, all with two outs.

"It was frustrating," Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine said. "We couldn't get that third out in the seventh inning. Had about four tries."

Los Angeles, two games behind the San Francisco in the NL West, has in the past month acquired shortstop Hanley Ramirez, outfielder Shane Victorino, starter Joe Blanton and reliever Brandon League. The latest deal comes less than a week before the Aug. 31 deadline for players to be eligible for the postseason.

Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez, right, congratulates relief pitcher Ronald Belisario after they defeated the Miami Marlins, 8-2, in their baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, in Los Angeles.

"It's just exciting," Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp said. "Everybody wants to win, and the guys up there are really making a statement and showing us that they want to win just as bad as we do."

For the Red Sox, 13 1/2 games back in the AL East, the trade signaled a concession for 2012 and a chance to rebuild without hefty contracts given during an undisciplined foray into free agency that, Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington conceded, has not worked out.

"It gives us an opportunity to build the next great Red Sox team," Cherington said. "We just felt like to get to be a team we believe in and a team the fans deserve, to sustain winning year after year, it was going to take something more than cosmetic changes. It was going to take something bold."

The Red Sox will save $261 million in salaries through 2018, plus a few million more for the rest of this season. Boston will send $11 million to the Dodgers as part of the deal, according to a baseball official with knowledge of the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity because the financial terms were not public.

After blockbuster trade, Dodgers beat Marlins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adrian Gonzalez hit a three-run homer on the second pitch he saw in a Los Angeles Dodgers uniform, and Andre Ethier tied a franchise record with his 10th straight hit in an 8-2 victory over the Miami Marlins on Saturday.

Clayton Kershaw (12-7) pitched three-hit ball over eight innings for the new-look Dodgers, hours after they acquired Gonzalez, Carl Crawford and Josh Beckett in a blockbuster trade with Boston.

Ethier and Mark Ellis also went deep for Los Angeles.

Ethier had his second straight four-hit game. He gave the Dodgers a 7-2 lead in the fifth with a leadoff homer against reliever Wade LeBlanc and added a bloop single to center in the seventh for his 10th consecutive hit, tying a club mark set in 1919 by Ed Konetchy.

Braves 7, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Jason Heyward hit a three-run homer and Atlanta snapped San Francisco's five-game winning streak.

Michael Bourn had two hits and two RBIs for the Braves, who had lost six of seven but still lead the NL wild-card race. Reed Johnson and Martin Prado each drove in a run.

Phillies 4, Nationals 2

In Philadelphia, Roy Halladay outpitched Gio Gonzalez with seven solid innings and John Mayberry Jr. homered to lead Philadelphia to its third consecutive victory.

Halladay (8-7) allowed two runs and seven hits, struck out six and walked one. The right-hander, who missed 42 games with a strained muscle, is 4-1 with a 2.75 ERA in his last five starts.

Reds 8, Cardinals 2

In Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips hit his first home run in August, Mike Leake pitched effectively into the seventh inning and the Reds strengthened their hold on the top spot in the NL Central.

Phillips and Ryan Ludwick had three hits apiece and Jay Bruce added a two-run homer as Cincinnati regained a seven-game lead over second-place St. Louis.

Mets 3, Astros 1

In New York, R.A. Dickey helped his own cause for his 16th victory, driving in a run with an infield single and pitching seven solid innings to help the Mets stop a six-game skid.

Justin Turner hit his first homer of the season and Jason Bay snapped an 0-for-14 slump with an RBI single in the eighth that ended a stretch of offensive futility for the Mets.

Pirates 4, Brewers 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Karstens pitched seven-plus innings before leaving with an injury and the Pirates snapped a four-game losing streak.

Karstens (5-3) gave up seven hits, did not walk a batter and struck out four for his first win in nine career starts against Milwaukee.

Rockies 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Carlos Gonzalez used his speed to beat out a potential double-play ball in the seventh inning and drive in the go-ahead run in the Rockies' victory.

Andrew Brown hit his first career homer and pinch-hitter Josh Rutledge had a two-run shot for Colorado, which has won six of seven.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Yonder Alonso hit the last of San Diego's three solo homers and added a two-run single to lead the streaking Padres past Arizona.

Chase Headley and Carlos Quentin also homered for the Padres, who have won six in a row. Clayton Richard (11-12) allowed three runs over eight innings, improving to 5-0 in seven career starts against Arizona.

Royals 10, Red Sox 9

In Boston, Tony Abreu singled home the go-ahead run in the 12th inning, and the Kansas City Royals completed their comeback from a six-run deficit by beating the Boston Red Sox 10-9 on Saturday night.

The Royals made it 9-all with six runs in the seventh - all of them with two outs, including a game-tying, two-run triple by Mike Moustakas that was his first hit in 19 at-bats.

Athletics 4, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, The first leg of the Oakland Athletics' seven-game road trip went just fine.

Brandon McCarthy pitched seven solid innings and Oakland beat the Tampa Bay Rays, 4-2. Chris Carter and Seth Smith homered for the Athletics.

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 2

In Baltimore, the Orioles have matched their win total of last year, and they've still got 36 games left to play.

It's an impressive accomplishment.

J.J. Hardy homered and scored three runs, rookie Steve Johnson allowed four hits over six innings and the Orioles beat the Toronto Blue Jays, 8-2, for their 14th win in 20 games.

Tigers 5, Angels 3

In Detroit, Andy Dirks hit a little flare to left that dropped just over shortstop Erick Aybar to score a run. Two innings later, Jhonny Peralta's line drive stayed barely fair down the left-field line, putting Detroit ahead.

Peralta hit a two-run double during a three-run eighth inning that sent Detroit to a 5-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

White Sox 5, Mariners 4

In Chicago, White Sox backup catcher Tyler Flowers figured he'd have another night off. And then starter A.J. Pierzynski and manager Robin Ventura were ejected in the third inning and suddenly he was in the game.

Flowers responded to the quick call Saturday night. He homered to tie the game in the sixth and later had an eighth-inning, two-strike bunt single to set up an important insurance run as Chicago beat the Seattle Mariners, 5-4.

Indians 3, Yankees 1

In Cleveland, nearly two weeks after their last win, the Indians Saturday night finally won another one, thanks to the pitching of Justin Masterson and the hitting of Michael Brantley.

Brantley's three-run home run in the first inning stood up the rest of the way as Cleveland beat the New York Yankees, 3-1, snapping the Indians' nine-game losing streak.

Rangers 9, Twins 3

In Arlington, Kinsler gave the Texas Rangers another big start.

Kinsler hit a leadoff home run and Mitch Moreland launched a 463-foot shot, leading Ryan Dempster and the Rangers over the Minnesota Twins, 9-3, for their fourth straight win.

Clemens back on the mound at age 50

SUGAR LAND, Texas (AP)—Roger Clemens raved about all the fun he had pitching at age 50 and putting smiles on the faces of Sugar Land baseball fans.

Still, it wasn't enough to set his mind on a major league comeback - at least not yet.

"No," Clemens said. "I've had success before at that level and other things. Again, it's a great deal of work and I'm not thinking that at this point."

Pitching for the first time in five years, Clemens tossed 3 1-3 scoreless innings Saturday night for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League.

He faced the Bridgeport Bluefish and struck out two, including former major leaguer Joey Gathright to start the game. He allowed one hit without a walk and threw 37 pitches.

Scouts from the Houston Astros and Kansas City Royals were on hand to see Clemens' comeback - for however long it lasts and wherever it leads.

"I think it will fuel that speculation," Royals pro scout Ron Toenjes said after watching the performance. "I just don't know what will happen. I don't think anyone does."

Clemens received a standing ovation when he left the game. He stopped to tip his cap to the overflow crowd of 7,724 before heading into the dugout to begin recuperating and see how his body responds to his big night.

Sugar Land manager Gary Gaetti, a two-time All-Star third baseman with the Minnesota Twins, said he was impressed by Clemens' outing after such a long layoff. He admitted before the game he was a bit concerned about how things would go because of Clemens' age and time off.

"He did a great job," Gaetti said. "He really did."

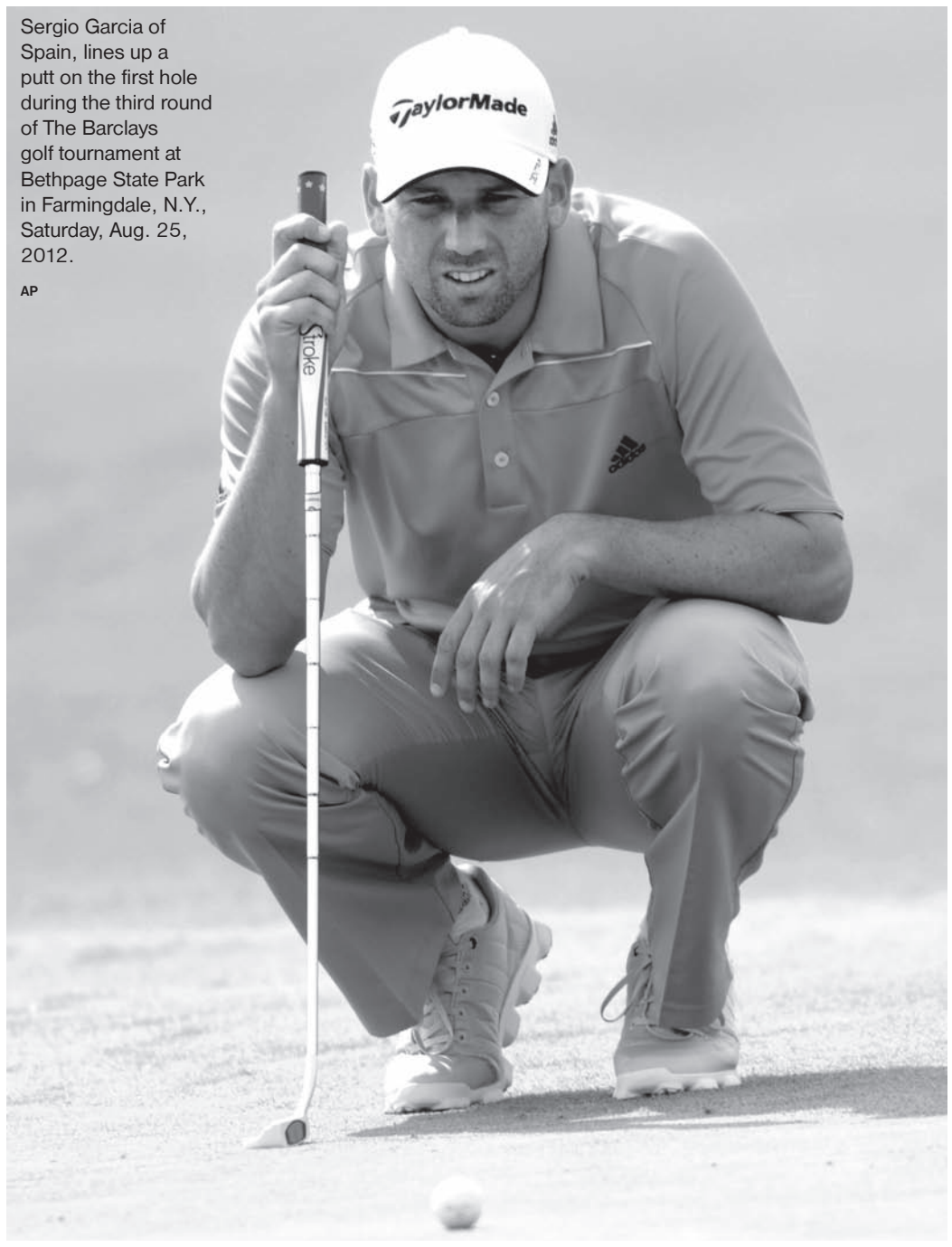
Tal Smith, a longtime Astros executive and currently a special adviser to the Skeeters, said Clemens had great command and that he believes he could pitch in the majors again.

The Rocket agreed to join the Skeeters on Monday after throwing a simulated game for team officials. He was still feeling the effects from that workout Saturday, and said he would have pushed back this start if he didn't have other commitments coming up in the next few days.

"I probably overextended myself a little bit," Clemens said, later adding that he'll be spending a lot of time icing his aging body in the upcoming days. "I wanted to see where I was at. Anytime you do these, they're fun but you don't want to go out and embarrass yourself or embarrass the club."

Garcia builds 2-shot lead at Barclays

BARCLAYS



Sergio Garcia of Spain, lines up a putt on the first hole during the third round of The Barclays golf tournament at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012.

AP

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Bethpage Black lived up its reputation because of the greens, which in some cases looked brown.

Sergio Garcia called them the fastest putting surfaces he could recall. Nick Watney referred to them as extreme. More than one player suggested the course was unplayable Saturday in The Barclays, certainly late in the afternoon as the sun baked out the public course on Long Island. And yes, there were references to Shinnecock Hills, the private club on Long Island where the greens were out of control on the final day of the 2004 U.S. Open.

Garcia managed them just fine.

With no bogeys over his final eight holes, he turned a three-shot deficit into a two-shot lead over Nick Watney with a 2-under 69. Such were the conditions that Garcia was the only player among the final 18 to finish who broke 70.

"The course is extremely firm," he said. "The greens, just probably some of the fastest greens I've ever played. Just one of those days where you knew it was going to be tough and you have to hold on very tight, and just kind of hope for the best."

Garcia went four years without winning on the PGA Tour and now has a chance to make it two in a row and return to the top 10 in the world. He was at 10-under 203, and only four players were within four shots of the lead.

Watney, who made five putts over 15 feet, went after another one on the 18th hole and this one cost him. The ball raced 10 feet by the hole, and he missed it coming back for his only official three-putt of the round. That gave him an even-par 71, though still in good shape to make a run at his first win of the year.

"The course just kind of beat you up," Watney said.

He got one small measure of revenge by making a 35-foot putt on the par-3 17th for the only birdie of the round. By late afternoon, the green was so firm that shots landing near the front pin settled in the rough or fringe behind the green.

Tiger Woods, who started the third round three shots out of the lead, three-putted for bogey three times on the front nine alone. He had another three-putt on the 14th hole, this one from 15 feet, and had a 72 that put him six shots behind.

"I don't remember blowing putts by 8 to 10 feet," Woods said. "So that was a bit of a shocker."

He knew what to expect on the first hole, when he watched Gary Christian lean on his putter and nearly fall over because the club had no traction on the slippery surface.

Kevin Stadler played early, when the greens still had some moisture, and had a remarkable round of 65 without any bogeys. He moved up from a tie for 42nd to alone in third place, three shots behind. Brandt Snedeker started strong and closed with nine pars, which was equally impressive, for a 68 that put him four back.

Phil Mickelson might still be in the game. Twice a runner-up at Bethpage Black - both times in the U.S. Open - Mickelson played early Saturday and had a 67. That eventually put him in the large group at 4-under 209 that included Woods, Louis Oosthuizen, Lee Westwood and Charl Schwartzel, an impressive collection of players who have either won a major or been No. 1 in the world.

"If you play well, you can shoot a decent score, but as the day goes on, the course just gets harder and harder," Garcia said. "No doubt playing in the morning makes it a little bit easier. Even though the greens were still firm, they were probably not as firm and probably not quite as fast. It's just we know what Bethpage Black is all about. We know it's a tough golf course, and you've just got to realize that's the way it's going to be."

And so it was.

Slugger White, the tour's vice president of rules and competition, disputed the idea that course was on the verge of being unplayable.

"The golf course is not unplayable," he said.

White conceded a few greens became "crusty," particularly at Nos. 2 and 8, and that the staff was thinking there would be more cloud cover. He went out to the greens after the last group came through and said, "I saw no issues."

"Players always want firm and fast," he said. "It seems like when we give them firm and fast, they don't want firm and fast. I hear Tiger say it was too soft on Thursday. And then some guy walks off the tee and says, `Have you guys run out of water?' Where do you go? We're doing the best we can."

Watney didn't entirely agree.

"There's firm and fast, and then there's this," Watney said. "I mean, this is pretty extreme."

Snedeker not only boosted his chances for a second win this year, it might be enough for him to be a Ryder Cup pick. He had four birdies in seven holes, and equally impressive was finishing with nine straight pars.

"Just got on a run with the putter," Snedeker said. "Was on the edge all day. Got some lucky breaks out there. You just can't hit greens out there, I don't care what anybody says. The greens are pretty much unplayable for the most part. You can't hit them. Just really, really a tough test."

Column: We still need Lance, even if he doped

NEW YORK—"Hell" is how one cancer patient describes it—the helpless feeling of sitting in a hospital room all alone, a potion that is both toxic and lifesaving flowing into her body.

When she didn't know whether she would live or die, when she didn't know if she could possibly endure another round of the horrifying chemo treatments at St. Luke's in New York, there was someone who helped her endure.

Lance Armstrong.

No, not Lance the fallen two-wheeled star whose reputation and cycling legacy is in tatters. The other Lance, the philanthropist and cancer survivor who has inspired so many.

"I know firsthand how much good he's done," said the woman, whose cancer is now in remission but asked that her name not be used because she's a public figure and isn't ready to let the world know about her condition. "He's touched too many lives to stop now. He's given hope to too many people."

Armstrong made cycling cool in America with seven straight Tour de France titles. He will likely be stripped of them all because of what he put in his body.

That Lance is done, gone forever.

We hope the other Lance continues to serve. So many still need him.

"I think saving millions of lives—and I'm not exaggerating by any means—far outweighs any athletic accomplishment," said Olympic swimmer Eric Shanteau, who, like Armstrong, survived testicular cancer.

This is the dichotomy we're faced with after Armstrong decided not to dispute the charges leveled against him by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. He still refuses to acknowledge using any performance-enhancing drugs, but that's essentially what he did when he decided not to carry on the fight. His reasoning—that he was simply tired of contesting accusations that first came up more than a decade ago—rings hollow, to say the least.

After all, he had stared down cancer when told he had less than a 50-50 chance of living. He had turned the towering Pyrenees into tame little hills during all those glorious Tour de France triumphs, refusing to be beaten no matter the physical toll on his body.

To give up now? Well, USADA must've had quite an impressive case against him.

It's time to let go of that Lance—the disgraced doper, like so many in his sport, not to mention one who can be sullen and snarky—and embrace the other side of the man.

The charismatic figure who started a foundation that raised a half a billion dollars, and counting, for the fight against cancer. The caring person who shows up at hospitals unannounced, without an entourage, giving so many victims of this dreaded disease a reason to live. Maybe he does it with a few words. Maybe it's just sitting with them while they're undergoing treatments.

All of it helps tremendously.

"Livestrong has almost made cancer acceptable," said Shanteau, who started working with Armstrong's foundation after he underwent successful surgery. "That's such a dangerous word—to `accept'—but people are willing to talk about it now. People are willing to address it. People are willing to support it. Livestrong has done that. Lance should be proud that his organization, in a sense, has outgrown him."

Shanteau is all for clean sport, but he felt no reservations about joining up with Livestrong after learning he had testicular cancer just ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He never had any trouble separating the shady athlete from the man who has done so much good away from his bike.

This other fight is far more important than the one he's been waging with USADA.

"When a person goes to Livestrong or any other cancer foundation, the last thing on his mind is that," Shanteau said. "They're walking in there fighting for their lives. They need help. The foundation is going to continue to be there to help."

Shanteau has seen both sides of the fight. He beat cancer. His father didn't.

"I still got to see all the benefits from the foundation that he got, and the pride he got from seeing me work with the foundation," Shanteau said. "I've seen how Livestrong affects people the cancer community and what a positive force they have been in that fight."

There are hopeful signs in the wake of Armstrong's bombshell capitulation. He tweeted Friday that donations to Livestrong were 25 times higher than the previous day, when he raised the white flag.

"Thank you thank you thank you!" he wrote.

Around the country, people donned their Livestrong bracelets, showing solidarity with Armstrong the cancer fighter, if not Armstrong the supposed doper.

The American Cancer Society is sticking with him, too.

"It is our hope that the foundation will continue its important work," said John R. Seffrin, the organization's CEO. "Reducing suffering and death from cancer is a moral imperative, and the Lance Armstrong foundation's contribution is sorely needed."

So, if you're wearing a Livestrong bracelet today, that doesn't mean you're supporting athletes shooting themselves up with all sorts of illicit chemicals, looking to boost their strength or improve their endurance.

Even Armstrong's most ardent supporters seem at ease conceding that, yes, he probably juiced.

Larry DeGaris, director of the sports marketing program at the University of Indianapolis, said he doesn't expect the USADA case to have a major impact on Armstrong's fundraising abilities.

"His celebrity has superseded his sports accomplishments and is now more based on being a cancer survivor than a Tour de France winner," DeGaris said. "I reckon there's something uniquely American going on with athletes who transcend their sports and for whom performance on the field of play becomes secondary."

For once, that's a good thing.

We no longer care if Armstrong injected himself with something that helped him win the Tour de France over and over again.

Now, it's about finding a chemical we can inject into anyone stricken with cancer, to kill off that insidious disease before it takes another loved one, another close friend, another person we admired from afar.

We need all the help we can get in that battle.

We need Lance.

Proa gains top seeding in Docomo playoffs

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Proa bumped off Loving Hands Daycare (6-1), 41-34, to clinch the top ranking in the playoff round of the U17 division of the 3rd Docomo Pacific Summer Youth Basketball League.

Proa finished the season undefeated in seven games and faces Docomo Red at the start of the playoffs today at 4:30pm. Loving Hands takes on the IT&E's Rollers A in the second playoff match at 5:30pm

Docomo Red (4-3) punched the fourth and last playoff berth after the dust cleared on Saturday and Rollers Basketball Club's IT&E Rollers-A (5-2) came away with the third slot. Eight teams made up the field.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Rollers 16B's Melvin Deocares streaks into the basket for a transition layup against Agape during their game in the Docomo caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IT&E Rollers A advanced after surviving IT&E Rollers B, 44-42; Loving Hands downed RBC's Agape squad, 48-33; and Rollers 16B snuck past the feisty Agape, 32-30.

Proa and Loving Hands squared off for the top seeding in the playoffs in the first match last Saturday and the former's John Capuyon and Karol Deleon led their team to the crucial win after tallying 11 points apiece. Proa came out hot at the opening tip and amassed a daunting 27-9 lead at the half.

After providing a handful of checks in the opening frame, the Proa duo added a combined dozen to seal the deal in the late minutes.

Loving Hands' Jaymark Deguzman and Jack Aranda teamed up for 28 points, but did not receive enough support from their teammates.

In the second matchup, IT&E Rollers A's Jeron Ano, Lixing Dai, JP Iglesias, VJ Nakayama all got two shots to put their team on top at midpoint, 19-16.

IT&E Rollers B sunk a couple three-pointers and drew 14 points from C.J. Morales to stay in pursuit, however Ano, Iglesias and Dixon Kwon teamed up for 20 at crunch time to thwart the former's effort.

In the third game, Mike Ito led Loving Hands with six points and received a lot of support for their 21-16 lead at the break.

Adrian De Luna carried Agape with his 10 markers in the first half and continued to cart hem in the closing period. He tallied nine points early in the second half, but Loving Hands put a lid on him in the final minutes to secure the win.

John Paul Villanueva delivered 12 points off bench to help secure the victory for Loving Hands.

In the fourth game, Rollers 16B trotted to an early 22-15 cushion at halftime off the coattails of Melvin Deocares, who racked up 10 points in the opening 16 minutes, and thwarted Agape' rally for the win

Agape's Allan Yu took the floor after missing the first half and barreled his way for 8 points to help ignite a late rally in the final three minutes. However, Rollers 16B hung tough and foiled Agape's upset bid.

KFC/Taco Bell routs Wushin Express

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KFC/Taco Bell's rollercoaster performance in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League continued after beating Wushin Express, 84-65, last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The defending champion, which lost to Zhaila's All Starz in a make-up game last Thursday, 83-92, and split its first two games, got only its second win in Pool A after holding Wushin Express to 6 points in the second period.

The game was still close after the first canto with KFC only ahead by a deuce, 29-27, when Wushin Express went cold in the second period and scored only three field goals off Pete Lizama's two baskets and Ivan Devero's one conversation.

While Wushin's offense was out of synch, KFC's was not, as Ralph Francisco and Mafi Sii found their marks in the second canto, teaming up for 13 of their 19 points to open a 48-33 halftime advantage.

Wushin Express never recover from thereon, as only Lizama and Devero continued to contribute to the team's losing cause.

Ralph Francisco and Sii on the other hand drew help from their teammates and KFC went on to get double figures from three players and two more combined for 18 markers. Ralph Francisco had a team-high 21 markers for KFC, which got 16 and 11 from Mafi and Herbert Maranan, respectively.

Devero nailed 30 points for Wushin Express, which dropped its third straight game winning its debut, while Lizama chipped in 15. The rest of the team combined for only 14 points.

Yuichiro 89, Church 360 81

In the opening game, Yuichiro Printing broke into the win column after outclassing Church 360.

Yuichiro canned important free throws in the homestretch, while Church 360 missed a bundle, allowing the former to get its first win in four tries.

The last six points of Yuchiro all came from the foul line, giving the team the 7-point win and handing Church 360 its second loss in three games. Badong Camacho made three charities, Erwin Gomez had a pair, and Resty Joson drilled one.

Yuichiro consistently scored in the 20s in all four quarters to gain control of the game and led by as much as 11 in the third period. It then held Church 360 to 11 points in the final period to make it to the win column.

The 11-point production was Church 360's lowest output in a quarter and to make things worse for the losing squad, it muffed about 10 charities in the final canto.

First Game

Docomo 89 – Abedes 31, Camacho 16, Palacios 14, Gomez 12, Joson 6, Sanciangco 4, Enriquez 2, Tengco 2.

Church 360 81 – Basa 33, Lutrel 17, Wood 14, Capuyon 2, Buenabajo 2, M. Puno 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 46-42, 69-60, 89-80.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 84 – R. Francisco 21, Mafi 16, Maranan 10, Lee 9, M. Francisco 9, Fernando 6, J. Guerrero 4, R. Guerrero 4.

Wushin Express 65 – Devero 31, Lizama 15, Castro 8, Tobias 2, Patawaran 2, Ritual 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-27, 48-33, 63-49, 84-65.

WANNA-BE'S

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Wanna-Be's lost the lead in the second period, as Lizama took a seat for the majority of that quarter. Lizama then returned to action at the start of the third and Mobil failed to stop the do-it-all center, who racked up 13 points to help push his team in front, 64-56, heading into the final stanza.

Mobil's Jawn Joyner sand Gyles Ruluked managed seven points apiece in the third, but Wanna-Be's kept a short leash on Rabauliman and point man Estolas throughout the second half to regain the game's momentum after the second-quarter collapse.

Estolas was shut out in the third period and only got one shot to fall in the fourth quarter, while Wanna-Be's shifted into cruise control down the homestretch. Rabauliman did not fare much better and was contained to a handful late in the game.

Wanna-Be's Preston Basa drained two treys early in the fourth and Pete Mendiola and Mel Manibusan combined for 11 points to slam the door on Mobil.

Jack Lizama finished with a game-high 28 points, while Rabauliman scrambled for 16 on the short end.

Wanna-Be's 85 – J. Lizama 28, Manibusan 16, Basa 12, P. Mendiola 11, P. Lizama 8, Barcinas 4, Diaz 4, Avila 2.

Mobil 68 – Rabauliman 16, Ruluked 13, Estolas 11, D. Sablan 11, Fernando 10, Joyner 4, B. Sablan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-11, 40-40, 64-56, 85-68

MIEKO

From Page 24

and 10-km run off-road event held in Marunuma, Gunma Prefecture, in 2:52:22, crossing the finish line more than 15 minutes ahead of Carey, who timed in at 3:07:37.

Carey, who missed her fourth straight XTERRA Japan crown, led Vanlandingham after the two-lap swim in the cold lake in front of Kan Ko So Resort. Without a wetsuit (pros were not allowed to wear one, only the age group participants), the 34-year-old pro braved the chilly water (22.3 degree Celsius) and went to the swim-bike transition area with a two and a half-minute lead over Vanlandingham (the swim split times of participants were unavailable at XTERRA website).

However, Vanlandingham, who was first an MTB rider before switching to triathlon, ate up Carey's lead in the early stage of the bike race that brought bikers around the unspoiled beauty of the Nikko National Forest. When the U.S. pro was done with the bike leg, she had already posted a 10-minute lead over Carey, who tried to push herself in the run leg, but still fell short after losing a lot of precious time in the bike race.

Saipan Tribune emailed Carey to ask for more information about last Saturday's race, but has yet to respond at press time.

Meanwhile, Japan's very own, Takahiro Ogasawara, finally won on his home soil after six tries.

Ogasawara timed in at 2:22:00 to edge Tagaman Triathlon champion and XTERRA Saipan runner-up Cedric Lassonde of France (2:23:02), US pro Will Kelsay (2:28:52), and compatriot Takeya Kenji (2:29:16).

The Top 3 finishers in the men's division were neck-and-neck after the first two legs with Lassonde only ahead by two minutes after reaching the bike-run transition. Lassonde kept the slim lead in the majority of the run leg before Ogasawara caught up with him in the last 3K uphill run to end the Japanese' drought in XTERRA Japan. Ogasawara finished runner-up in the annual event three times (2007-2009) and placed third twice (2010 and 2011).

SBC

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Rounding out the Top 3 was Salbahe, which completed the season with a 39.5-32.5 card and tallied a 54.9 winning percentage. Salbahe, which has Ben Aizon, Pablito Amog, Efren Cacdac, Maritess Fabie, Andy Pasion, Lito Asuncion, Efren Taburnal, and Aboy Banting on its roster, averaged 778 pinfalls and garnered 51,454 in 18 weeks. Salbahe also posted 905 (high game), 2, 458 (high series), 1,094 (handicap game), and 2,984 (handicap series).

Five other teams joined this season's competition with Now U Know placing fourth with its 36.5-35.5 record, followed by Blasters (36-36), Fiesta Resort & Spa (33.5-38.5), One Shot (30-42) and IT&E (27-45).

Now U Know managed to end its campaign in the Saturday Night League on a winning note after beating Fiesta Resort & Spa, 2,926-2,605, while the last-ranked IT&E also had its last hurrah after thwarting One Shot, 2,852-2,749.

RBC

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which included dribbling/ball handling, shooting and defense/post-up.

Participants all took turns at the different stations before ending the show with some organized scrimmage games.

"We are very pleased that so many young players showed interest in learning more about basketball. We really utilized every inch of the gym too and we're grateful to have multiple baskets to work with. It really helped us achieve a lot more than if we were to use just two goals. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped coach the kids because we simply could not have done it without them. The gym opened up late, but all in all, the kids had a great time and I hope they build off of what they learned when school starts," RBC head coach Joe Diaz said.

With the RECTIFY program being tattered by rain, Diaz also joked that the weather was much better inside the gym. RECTIFY is an acronym that stands for Respect-Educate-CNMI-To-Inspire-the Future-Youth. It is being held throughout the week in Koblerville from 4:30pm to 6pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and every Saturday morning at the Ada gym from 9am to 10:30am.

The program initially planned to transfer weekly sessions to Kagman II district, however it will remain in Koblerville, while the finale tournament will take place at the Garapan court

According to Diaz, the combination of bad weather and not receiving enough registrants in Kagman area contributed to the schedule modification. Moreover, the program is supposed to be finished by the end of 2012 fall school semester.

After the clinic, a group of veteran players under Diaz's mentorship also participated in a clean up project organized by the Garapan Community and Development Center.

The Rollers representatives helped pick up trash in Garapan along the street near the 99 Cents Store and Himawari. They also covered the construction area near the Garapan Elementary School.

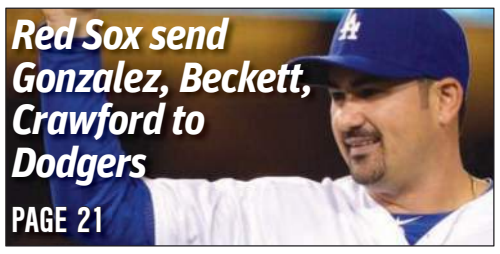
The Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Corrections, and the Saipan Municipal Council staff were also present during the cleanup.

"We [RBC] try to pitch in and help perform various civil service efforts such as these as a way to give back to the community and show our supporters and sponsors our appreciation and gratitude. Being a RBC member is more about just playing basketball, it is about developing our youth into responsible adults so they can grow up and be successful leaders and contributors of society. After all, they are our future," Diaz said.

"So on behalf of the Rollers family, we would like to thank Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, SMC chairman Raymond Camacho, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services and all of our private sponsors for all of their support," he added.

RBC's sponsors include Bridge Capital, Tan Holdings, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, National Office Supply, St. Michael's Medical Response, KKMP, Alamo Rent-A-Car, and Hertz.

Right now, RBC is preparing for the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League season and the Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest in Guam in November.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wanna-Be's rules Summer Jam caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wanna-Be's stunned the top-seeded Mobil in their winner-take-all finale, 85-68, to top the 18A Summer Jam Friendly Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Garapan court.

The champion squad is composed of Arvin Avila, Jason Bahillo, Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, Brian Chan, Zach Diaz, Roger Hernandez, Mel Manibusan, Dexter and Pete Mendiola, Jerome Norita, Pete Lizama, Charlie Peters, Josh Sablan, and Syl Teregeyo.

Despite having a starting five that included four former CNMI National Team members and a deep supporting cast, Wanna-Be's was actually a middle of the road bet, as it ranked third out of the six squads that made it to the playoffs and had to go a series of knockout matches to advance to the finals.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Wanna-Be's Pete Mendiola delivers a nifty finger roll against two Mobil players during their title game in the Summer Jam caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil, on the other hand, earned the first final berth, but lost its momentum somehow as it waited too long to play the one-game finals due to bad weather.

When Mobil and Wanna-Be's finally met last weekend, the former looked out of sync and fell behind, 11-19, after the opening period. Jack Lizama paced Wanna-Be's with his 11 points out of the gate.

Mobil bit down, however and locked the match at 40-apiece at halftime behind the 11 markers of Marvin Rabuliman, who then drew support from Jun Estolas' pair of three-pointers.

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Mieko finishes second to Shonny

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan pro Mieko Carey got off to a good start in last Saturday's 2012 XTERRA Japan, but failed to sustain her momentum and ended up placing runner-up to 2010 XTERRA World champion Shonny Vanlandingham.

According to the XTERRA website, Vanlandingham completed the 1.2-kilometer swim, 25-km mountain bike race,

See MIEKO on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey, seen here heading back to Micro Beach during the 2012 XTERRA Saipan, finished second behind Shonny Vanlandingham in last Saturday's XTERRA Japan.

SBC/J's Restaurant tops Saturday League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The favored Saipan Bowling Center/J's Restaurant lived up to expectations after ruling the 47th season of the Philippine Bowling Association's Budweiser Saturday Night League.

SBC/J's Restaurant, which is bannered by PBA Bowler of the Year award winners Paul Pangelinan, Robert Talavera, and Percy Omechelang, completed the 18-week competition with a league-best 43.5-28.5 record. Also on the champion team are Edward Baluyan, Ariel Dumapit, Roger De Guzman, and Simeon Eparwa.

SBC/J's Restaurant secured the championship after beating Salbahe in the final week (July 14), 3,041-2,684. It finished the season with a 60.4 winning percentage and averaged 868 pinfalls. In 18 weeks, SBC/J's Restaurant collected 53,079 pinfalls, posted a high game of 1,002 and high series of 2,822. It also recorded 1,111 and 3,095 in handicap games and series, respectively.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players of SBC/J's Restaurant pose with their medals and trophy during the awards ceremony for the Philippine Bowling Association's 47th Budweiser Saturday Night League last night at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Lemon Tree also won its final assignment in the league, downing Blasters, 3,226-2,899, but the former still fell short of overtaking SBC/J's Restaurant after logging only a 42-30 record. The eventual runner-up earned a 58.3 winning percentage, averaged 847 pinfalls and totaled 52,464 in 18 weeks. Its high game and high series were set at 986 and 2,833, respectively. For the handicap games and series, Lemon Tree had 1,117 and 3,226.

Playing for Lemon Tree are Rusty Musca, Allan Hernandez, Ferdee Generoso, Raymond Angeles, Richard Leon, Resty Ancheta, Tony David, Joey Ranjo, and Ricky Moscoso.

See SBC on Page 23

RBC clinic lures almost 100 players

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rollers Basketball Club's RECTIFY Summer Youth Basketball Program held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday drew 97 participants.

The Kiyu Public Library's CLAPS group joined forces with the RBC and split the players into two age groups (6-10 and 11-13). Organizers used all six baskets and divided the clinic into different sections,

See RBC on Page 23

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A youth player squares up for a jump shot during the RBC RECTIFY Summer Youth Basketball Program held last Saturday morning at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.